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CASTLES IN JAPAN

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OPENING CEREMONY OF EDO CASTLE

By. T. Ichihara

CASTLES IN JAPAN

BY

Prof. N. ŌRUI, D. Litt.
and
Prof. M. TOBA



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EDITORIAL NOTE

It is a common desire among tourists to learn something of the culture of the countries they visit as well as to see their beautiful scenery. To see is naturally easier than to learn, but flying visits merely for sightseeing hardly furnish the time or opportunity for more than a casual glimpse of the culture of any foreign people. This is specially true of Japan.

The Board of Tourist Industry recognizes the difficulty of attaining this high purpose, viz. to provide foreign tourists with accurate information regarding the various phases of Japan's characteristic culture. It is endeavouring therefore to meet this obligation, as far as possible, by publishing this series of brochures.

The present series will, when completed, consist of more than a hundred volumes, each dealing with a different subject, but all co-ordinated. By reading therefore the entire series the foreign student of Japan may gain an adequate knowledge of the culture that has developed in this country through the ages.

For those who wish to follow up these studies with a closer investigation, bibliographies are appended, which we trust may be found reliable and authoritative guides in their study.

Board of Tourist Industry,
Japanese Government Railways

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I. GENERAL HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF JAPANESE CASTLES

Visitors to Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and other historic places in Japan will not fail to see moats filled with blue, placid water lined by massive stone walls with green pine trees upon them, and, towering high above them all, lofty structures marked by white walls. It is the ancient castle of some territorial noble, one of those castles built in the feudal ages, quite original in their conception and therefore peculiar to Japan. These structures represent one of the best and most noteworthy types of architecture that have been evolved in Japan. What is more, they are to be regarded, in a certain sense, as an expression of Bushidō, of the true spirit and genius of Japanese feudalism. It is of those castles that we now propose to give an account for the benefit of those who intend to tour Japan.

The history of castle-building in Japan, from its earliest time to the present day, may be divided roughly into five distinct periods, which are as follows :

First Period : From the dawn of history to the first half of the 7th century.

Second Period : From the second half of the 7th to the 10th century.

Third Period : From the 11th to the first half of the 16th century.

Fourth Period : From the second half of the 16th to the first half of the 19th century.

Fifth Period : From the second half of the 19th century to the present age.

The first period was the age of clans, a period in which was developed a civilization peculiar to Japanese soil. In those days castles were either fortified homesteads of clans or defensive works temporarily thrown up in time of war.

The second period covers the time from the Taika era, which began in the year 645 A. D., and continued down to the end of the 10th century, marked in Japanese history by the fall of the Fujiwaras. This period is known for the reforms made towards an effective centralization of administrative power, establishing executive control over local clan chieftains, and for its series of legal enactments placing the national polity on a stronger basis. The nation at this period grew in strength and rose in prestige, maintaining, outwardly, close relations with Asiatic countries such as China, Korea and Manchuria, the last of which was then known as the Kingdom of Pohai.

Castles were considered at this period in the light of national defences, and were therefore built on an ambitious scale such as had never been seen before. These castles, as may be expected from the close political, military and cultural relations our people of the time had with other nations, show in outward form traces of more or less foreign influence. The remains of these castles are to be seen in the island of Kyūshū in the south, and in certain parts of the Ō-u districts in the northeast, and they stand in striking contrast to the castles of the feudal ages.



Kumamoto Castle

The third period represents the earlier part of what is known as the age of chivalry ; that is to say, it extends from the time which saw the birth of the soldier or samurai class to the time when modern feudalism had attained its full development. The relations with Asiatic neighbours not being so close at this period as they had been in the past, our people were left much to themselves to make developments along their own lines. Castles in those times were built by individual soldiers for their own defensive purposes and, consequently, on unpretentious scales. The close of this period began to see armed conflict among soldiers on all sides. It was in the year 1543 A. D. that the first matchlock was imported into our country from Europe, to effect in the course of time material changes in castle-building, and to bring about its unification on a national system earlier than would have been done otherwise. There are at present few remains to be seen of the castles built at this period, except the sites on which they once stood.

The fourth period extends from the time when Oda Nobunaga, a great military leader who was among the first to make effective use of the weapon just introduced into the country, had established a unified control over the central regions of Japan, now known for cities such as Kyoto, Osaka and Nagoya, down to the ages immediately preceding the modern era of Meiji (1868-1912). The castles which are best preserved to this day are those of this period, and it is chiefly with them that the present writers intend to deal.

The fifth period begins in the years immediately

preceding the coming of Americans and Europeans to these shores to demand commercial intercourse, and continues to the present day.

When the Tokugawa régime had placed all the feudal barons of the country under its control, it decided before long, as a matter of foreign policy, to have no intercourse with any Europeans but the Hollanders. This policy remained in force for about two centuries. In the meantime, peoples of Europe and America had begun to penetrate more and more the Far East. Pressed to deal with these peoples, Japan became keenly alive to the necessity of national defence in general, and to that of the much improved ordnance of Europe in particular. Castles were built or remodelled in terms of the guns that European warfare had developed.

This state of affairs had not gone on many years before the feudal system was brought to an end. Fortifications were then taken up as a matter of national consideration ; and in the same light the state has since then been attending to them as part of the scheme of national defence.

The castles you are to see are those built by feudal lords of the later period. Let us first see therefore how these strongholds came into being.

Until about seventy years ago Japan had been under feudalism, a polity which had lasted several centuries. For a period of approximately two hundred years down to the middle of the 16th century, there had been scores of warring barons, and the whole country had been ruthlessly parcelled out into almost as many divisions. The castles, which saw their



Distant view of Inuyama Castle

development during such a turbulent period towards the close of the mediaeval ages in Japanese history, were of diverse kinds and marked with as many different features. Living under such conditions of life, the territorial nobles had, as a matter of the first importance, to build castles which provided at the same time for the defence of their own homes. Their fortifications are consequently marked with residential features. What is more, as these nobles were in possession of the administrative control of their respective domains, their residences were in more than one sense the seats of local government. Needless to say, their castles were likewise the centres of social as well as economic life, to say nothing of military activity. In these circumstances, the fortified homes of feudal lords were built



Nagoya Castle

at places of foremost importance within their respective demesnes.

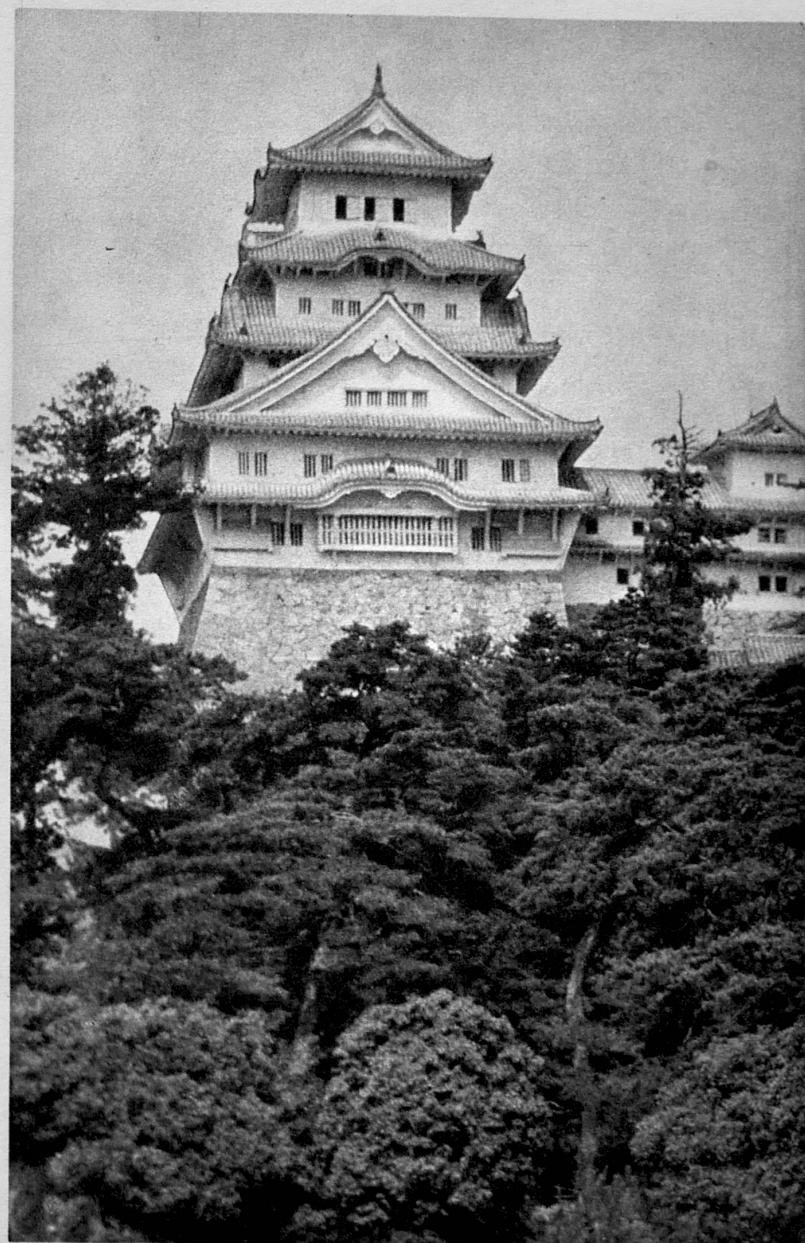
While the territorial lords were still personages of limited influence, and wars were not so frequent, their castles were rather modest affairs. When, however, the country found itself in a state of constant warfare, the lords began to build, in addition to, and not far from, their fortified residences, strongholds, or "mountain castles" as they were called, upon hills or high places of strategic advantage, where they might retire and hold out in the event of an assault by some overwhelming force. When a period of nearly two hundred years had passed under such conditions of national life, these "mountain castles" or "castles-on-mountain," originally conceived as defences to meet temporary requirements,

had developed into permanent establishments. Growing in both scale and structure, there had developed "mountain castles" of imposing dimensions. Especially in the period of internecine wars that preceded the close of the age of feudal warfare, a general use of firearms, a new factor in the warfare of the time, caused these "mountain castles" to develop into structures of permanent and definite importance.

The first matchlock, which in 1543 was brought by some Portuguese to a southern corner of our country, wrought radical changes in the military system and tactics. The art of building castles was likewise modified, and they consequently developed into greater, higher, and more solid and massive strongholds.

Under the altered conditions of war, those powerful feudal lords who could make free use of the newly-imported arms which were of undisputed efficiency, began to have little difficulty in disposing of feudal adversaries in less favoured circumstances. In consequence, the work of reducing the whole country to a state of unified control began to see great progress. One of the central figures of this movement was Oda Nobunaga.

This military hero, who rose to importance in 1573 as lord of the province of Owari, steadily grew in power, until in time he became one of the most powerful lords of the central part of the country, having supplanted the Ashikagas, who had, for a period of some two hundred and fifty years, held at Kyoto the Shogunate, the authority of which, towards their declining days, had become a matter of nominal rather than actual power.

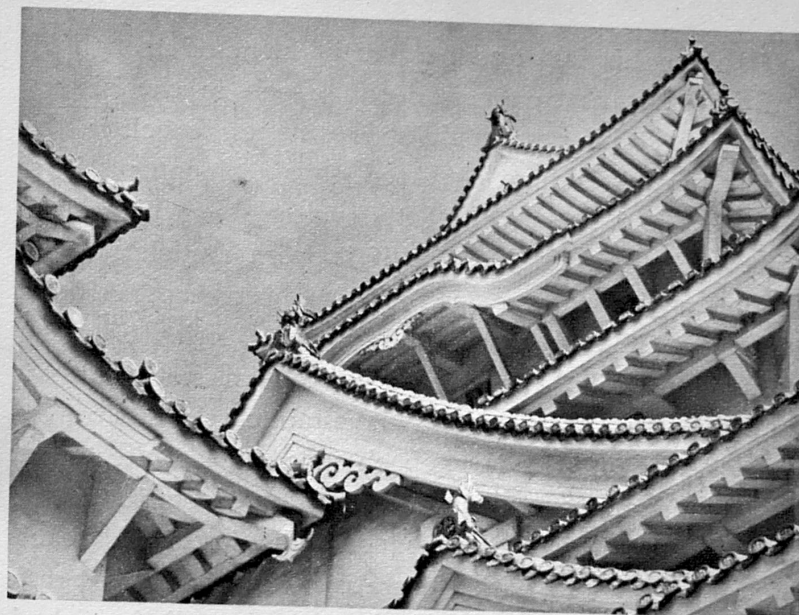


Tower-keep of Himeji Castle



Roofs of Himeji Castle

In 1576 this rising lord saw reason to build a castle at a place called Azuchi and on a piece of land projecting into Lake Biwa on its east side, about 30 miles to the east of Kyoto where was the seat of the Imperial court. This stronghold was not built, however, with the object of affording him a permanent residence or the seat from which he might extend his rule over the other lords of the country. In those days he still had a number of feudal adversaries to reckon with: namely, Uesugi in the north, Takeda in the east and Mōri in the west. Each of these was in possession of military strength and territories equal, if not superior, to those of Nobunaga, and whose sentiments towards him were anything but friendly. The new castle of Azuchi, occupying a position of strategic importance on



Under surface of eaves of Himeji Castle

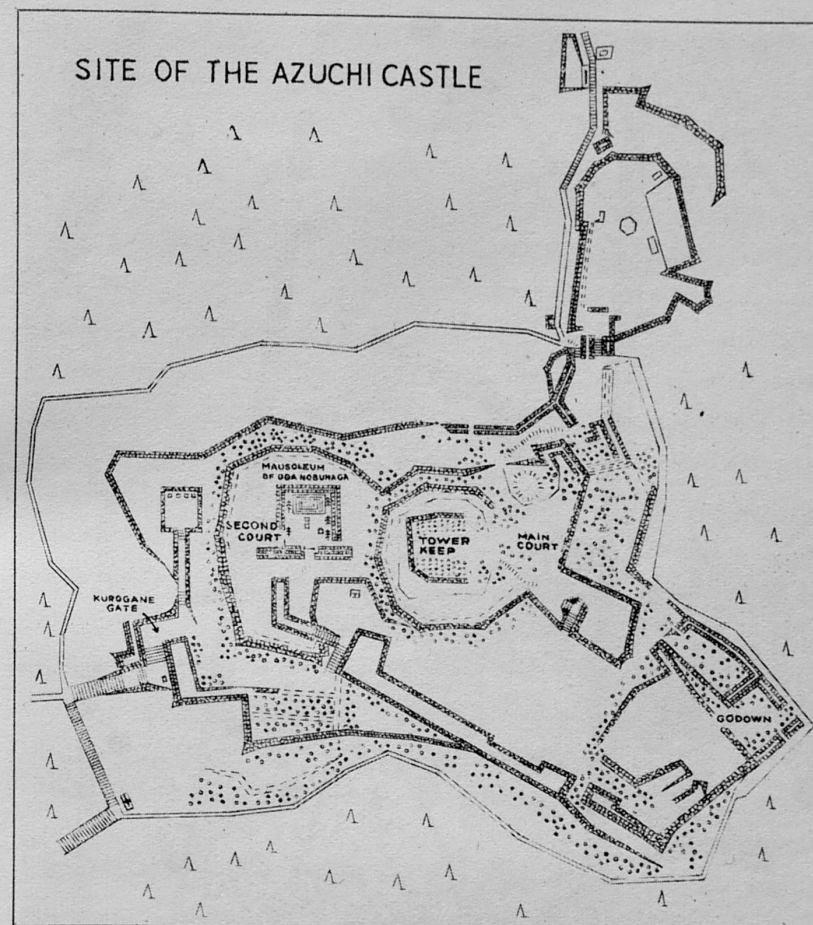
the line of communication, had been built as a means of combating precisely those three military powers by which Nobunaga was surrounded.

Meanwhile, he had won his way close to the throne in Kyoto. He had become the highest among all the feudal lords in name, if not in reality. In his new exalted position he was called upon to win that power which was due to his estate, and to assert his supremacy over the whole country. There were a number of military rivals who had to be handled with no little respect. Nor did Nobunaga fail to see that he was now to launch upon undertakings which might entail any number of years of military work. In these circumstances, he had a castle built on a permanent basis at Azuchi where, however, he had no intention

of making his last and permanent home or stronghold. As his military career made an epoch in the history of Japan, so his new castle opened a new epoch in the art of castle-building. It stood on a promontory rising 660 feet and sheer out of the water, by which it is surrounded on all sides, as if it were an islet. The highest point was crowned with a tower-keep. Around this were several courts built upon a series of rising ground. While the whole conception was not exactly a new departure as a type of "mountain castle," its tower-keep represented a new epoch in castle architecture.

The main tower was formed of seven stories above and of one floor underground. The interior of each story was painted with decorative designs by first-rate artists of the time. The sixth story was distinguished from the others by its outside pillars painted in vermillion, and by the interiors which were gilded. The seventh or topmost story was gilded both inside and outside. The whole structure, however, was destroyed by enemy fire shortly after its master's death.

Nobunaga was killed in 1582, while proceeding at the head of a military expedition, when his lodgings in Kyoto were assaulted by Akechi Mitsuhide, one of his own subjects. His death was avenged by another of his subjects, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who subdued the rebel general and carried on the work his late master had been bent upon. He had been thus gaining power not so many years when he had castles built at Osaka and Kyoto, establishing himself permanently in these central regions of the country. In eight brief years after Nobunaga's death, he had won mastery over more



than a dozen barons who held territorial possessions which Nobunaga had never been able to touch, and which altogether represented an area seven or eight times larger than the domain to which he could lay claim in his lifetime.

The castle of Osaka for which Hideyoshi was responsible was built in 1583, the year following the death of his master. The city of Osaka occupies a position of geographical importance, as may be seen



Osaka Castle

from its present position as the first commercial and industrial city of the country. Nobunaga early had an eye to this place as the base of his activity, though his idea was not to be realized, and his mantle, after his unexpected death, fell upon Hideyoshi's shoulders. In his hands the whole work of unifying the war-worn country went on as if nature herself were working out her own destiny. The castle of Osaka was begun in 1583 and completed three years later. It was a castle of far greater dimensions than that of Azuchi and situated at a place of very much greater importance. At the time of building this ambitious stronghold at Osaka, Hideyoshi was on the eve of opening his contest with a number of men of undisputed military strength, each of whom had an eye to the highest military regency of the country. The whole nation, too, had at this period reached a state of exuberant energy and vigour, such as it had not seen for ages. As evidence, for instance, of the time marked by such strong national vitality, attention may be called to the huge blocks of stone, measuring some score feet in height, used in building the walls of Osaka Castle, and to the tower-keep designed with eight stories at an extravagant cost in gold and labour. The tower-keep was roofed with gilded tiles. Upon the ridge of the topmost roof were placed a pair of dolphins in gold. The walls of the upper sections were ornamented with designs of cranes and tigers. The crane is believed in Japan to be a bird capable of living a thousand years, and, for the same reason, regarded as symbolizing long, unchangeable prosperity. The tiger, consider-



Reconstructed tower-keep of Osaka Castle

ed in the East as one of the sacred animals, is used to symbolize the paragon of prowess. An idea may be formed of these decorative designs, when it is known that the country of this age was in a nascent period of art and literature, as evidenced in the productions of fine workmanship in the field of arts and industries of the time. National activity in these fields was amply reflected in the interior ornaments and decorations of the homes of men of the rising warrior classes of which Hideyoshi was the most brilliant figure.

The castle of Osaka stood on a high location which is girded with deep running water on the north and east sides, and looked out, on the west, on an open level ground extending as far as the sea. The area forming the castle site measured more than one mile



Corner-keep and Ōte-mon gate of Osaka Castle

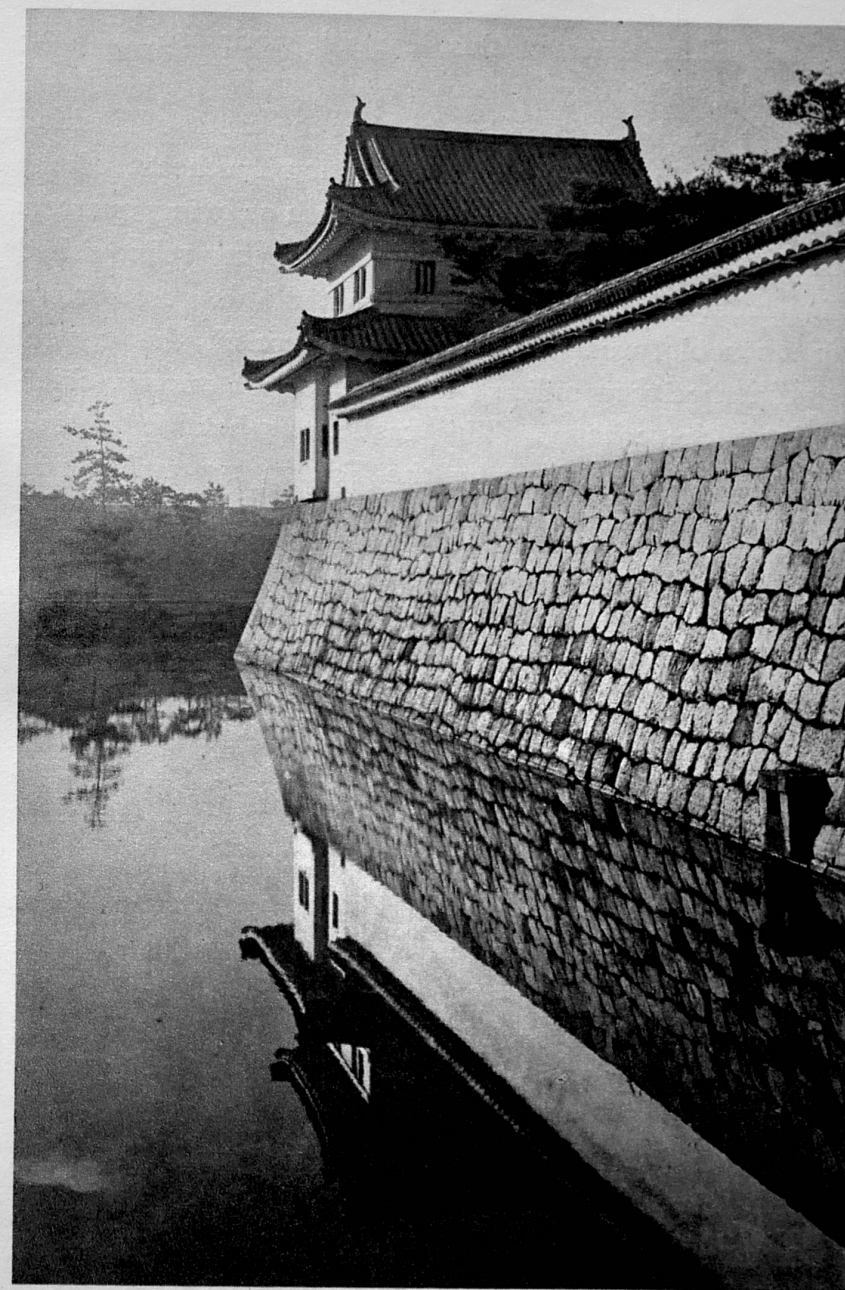
from east to west, and one and a half miles from north to south. The interior was divided into the main keep and a number of sections. The outermost court measured in circumference about 8 miles, covering an area of 220,000 *tsubo* (about 187 acres).

The grandiose castle of Osaka had not been completed many years when Hideyoshi built within Kyoto a palatial structure called Juraku, which was more in the nature of a fortified residence than a stronghold. Within the fortified area a number of buildings were erected at a prodigious cost. The reason of his building such a palace, in addition to the magnificent castle of Osaka just completed, was that he wished to take up his residence close to the Imperial court where he had been exalted to the rank of "Kampaku Dajōdai-

jin" (the highest court rank), granted him in recognition of his work of subduing the military strife of the country. Hideyoshi, in whose memory the death of his late master in the same city was still fresh, saw reason to have his new residence well fortified. Juraku Castle, however, was abandoned in a few years, and would have passed into history altogether, had it not been that a castle of the same kind was later built by the Tokugawas at Nijō, Kyoto, a little way to the south of the site on which once its model had stood. This castle of Nijō is preserved as an Imperial palace and is much the same as it was in the early days of the Tokugawas.

What must also be noted of Hideyoshi's work is that he had in 1591, upon the completion of Juraku Castle, the whole city of Kyoto girded with a system of earthen walls.

The earliest capital city of Japan had been laid out about the middle of the 7th century in the form of a square somewhat on the model of Chinese cities. Kyoto, too, was laid out in similar fashion in the year 794 A. D. Subject to no invasion by foreign races, the Kyoto defences had developed little beyond low earthen walls and narrow ditches. These defences, such as they were, had no occasion to be put to the test. In the course of a few centuries the earthworks around Kyoto had fallen into complete decay. But Hideyoshi, with the object of securing the city of Kyoto and of giving rise to prosperity within the enclosed zone, caused earthen walls about 35 feet high, and ditches about 65 feet wide, to be built over a distance

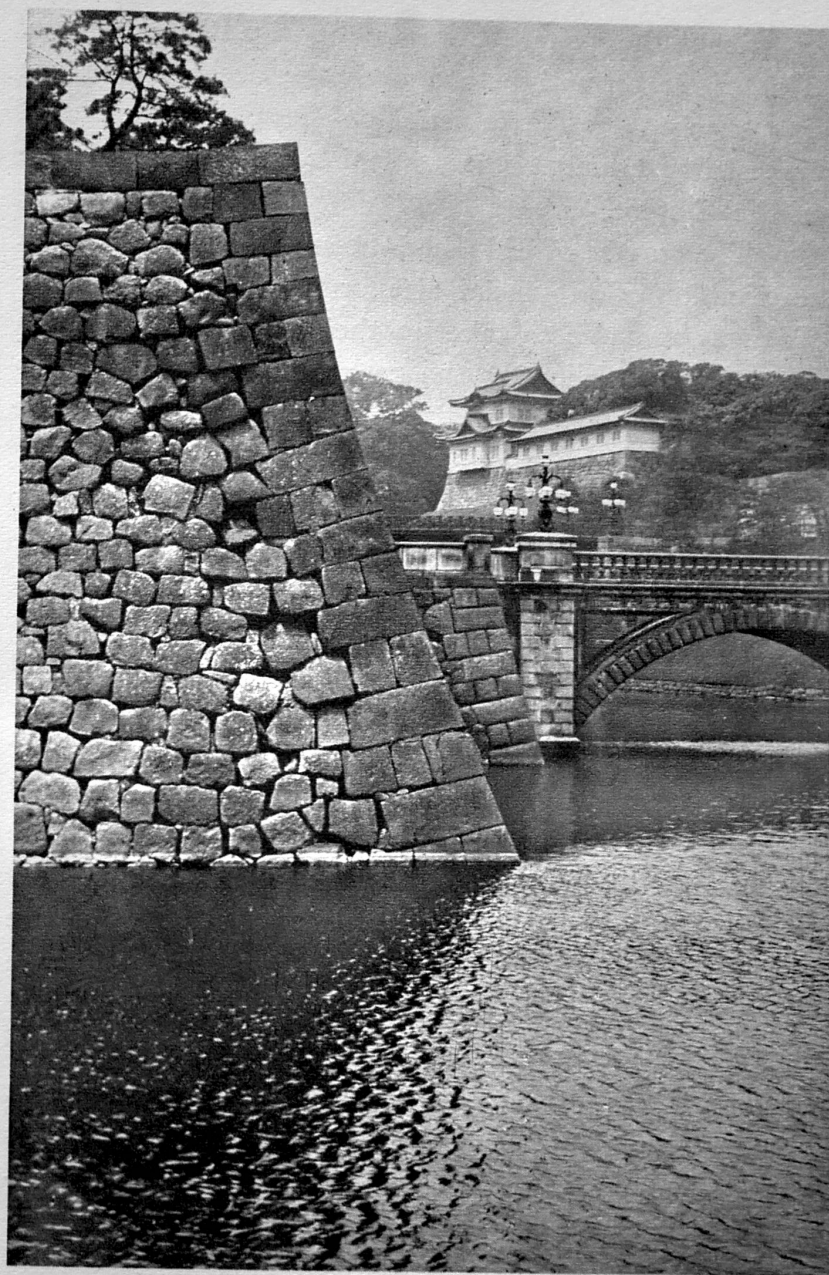


Nijō Castle

of 17 miles. Parts of this defensive work are still preserved to this day.

It was by Hideyoshi also that the castle of Fushimi was built in 1594 upon an elevation southeast of the city of Kyoto. This was meant both as living quarters and seat of government of him who, having relinquished in favour of his adopted son part of his power as a court noble, was still bent upon exercising his control and authority as military leader over all warrior chieftains of the country. This castle was held for a time after his death in trust by the Tokugawas until it was demolished, the structures in one form or another being transferred to castles in Osaka, Tokyo and elsewhere, and the inner living quarters presented to temples and cloisters around Kyoto. Of this castle, consequently, there remains in Fushimi only an elaborately-carved gate, which may be seen at a Shintō shrine called Gokō-no-miya. The centre of the site of this ancient castle forms today the Mausoleum of the Emperor Meiji.

In 1598 Hideyoshi died. Two years later his close retainers and the Tokugawas were at war, the armed struggle resulting in victory for the Tokugawas. In 1603, Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa régime, was appointed Shōgun, i. e. the military regent of the country. Both in name and reality he became Captain-General of the country. The Tokugawas, setting up their seat of government at Edo (now Tokyo), where they had made their headquarters some years before, at once undertook the work of extending their castle, ordering the feudatories under their rule to



Imperial Palace (the former Edo Castle of the Shōguns)

contribute their share towards the gigantic enterprise. This castle formerly stood over the areas which are now marked by the Imperial palace and a number of Imperial government offices, forming the veritable centre of the Empire.

The castle of Edo had been little more than a fortification of provincial size or importance until the Tokugawas came to take up their quarters there. In 1590, Ieyasu, following the counsel of Hideyoshi, who was keenly alive to its strong strategic position, made his headquarters there. Ieyasu's scheme of extending the same castle, launched immediately after his appointment as Shōgun and carried on by a number of feudatories on whom he imposed his will, resulted in the creation of a castle twenty times as large as it was originally. In the main court, placed at the centre of the huge fortifications, he provided his living quarters and the seat of central government. Upon the eminence running out westwards from the centre was established the western court, of about the same dimensions as the main court, which was the home of a retired Shōgun or of an heir to the military sceptre secured in the house of the Tokugawas. With these courts as the nucleus there were second and third courts, together with certain other courtly establishments. The whole castle, covering an area of 10 miles in circumference, was not completed until 1636, or about thirty years after the work was begun, after one of Ieyasu's grandsons had been in power for more than a decade.

When Ieyasu became the supreme military ruler of the country, the son of the late Taikō was still at



One of the corner-keeps of Edo Castle

the castle of Osaka. It was, however, plain that the followers of the Toyotomis were bent upon subduing the Tokugawa in order that Hideyori might become his late father's successor in the full sense of the term. It was equally plain that the Tokugawas, by no means blind to the situation, felt that they could never rest assured until they had disposed of the Osaka camp whose antagonism was but thinly veiled. Its chieftain, however, being still a child, the situation had been suffered to drift along for more than ten years, without military outbreak of any sort. Meanwhile, Ieyasu, who had been asked by the late Hideyoshi, more as a matter of form than anything else, to act as guardian to his infant son, took occasion to counsel the young Hideyori and his mother to have a temple built

for the welfare not only of the departed illustrious soul but also for that of their own house. Thus their attention was successfully diverted to undertakings of a religious nature, which were done at their own cost in gold and time. In the meantime the Tokugawa rulers not only extended their own castle at Edo but caused a number of fortifications to be made at important points between their home and Osaka against which all their military preparations had been directed. Among these new fortifications mention may be made of the castles at Nagoya, Hikone, Shizuoka (known at the time as Sumpu), etc. In addition, strongholds were set up at several places in the vicinity of Kyoto against the war which was becoming more and more imminent. Territorial nobles, too, in sight of the situation pregnant with serious eventualities, were drawn into the race for armament preparation, with due regard to the matter of castle-building and preparation for the events which might assume any magnitude under given conditions.

At length, in 1614, the situation culminated in the war between Toyotomi and Tokugawa. Toyotomi now held only the castle of Osaka, which Tokugawa ordered feudatories in all parts of the country to come and invest with their forces. The first period of fighting, which is known as the winter campaign because it opened in the winter of the year 1614, came to a close in no time. As one of the terms of peace, it was agreed that the outer moats of Osaka Castle should be filled up. The Tokugawa representatives, however, in executing the same agreement, went even so far as to destroy part of the inner moats as well. In the



Tower-keep and corner-keep of Nagoya Castle

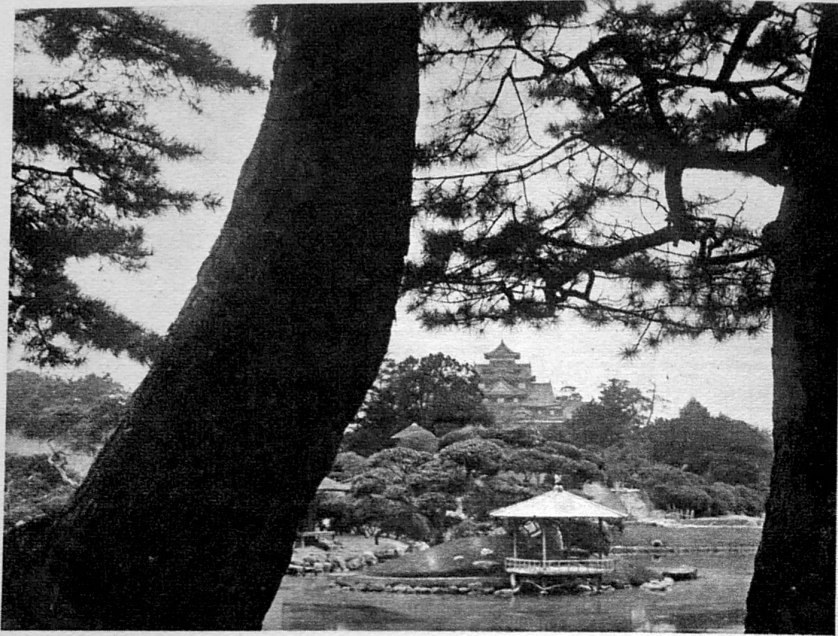
summer of the following year, war again broke out, a war which is known as the summer campaign. Their ramparts having been demolished beyond effective use, the Toyotomis had chiefly to resort to field action. But opposed by forces of overwhelming superiority, the Osaka armies were defeated. The last of the Toyotomis passed out of existence when Hideyori and his mother died at their own hands.

Thus, having established undisputed control over all feudal lordships of the country, the Tokugawa government, for their own security, at once ordered them all to reduce their armaments both in size and strength. It was ordered that the feudatories should destroy, with the sole exception of the main court where their living quarters were placed, all the outlying and

therefore secondary castles of their fortified systems. They were enjoined against building a new castle of any sort, and against making repairs in their existing castles without the approval to be obtained from the Yedo government, upon presenting in detail the nature of the repairs to be made, or without the superintendency of the same government on the same occasion. In these circumstances, a period of nearly three hundred years which followed was to see not a single new castle.

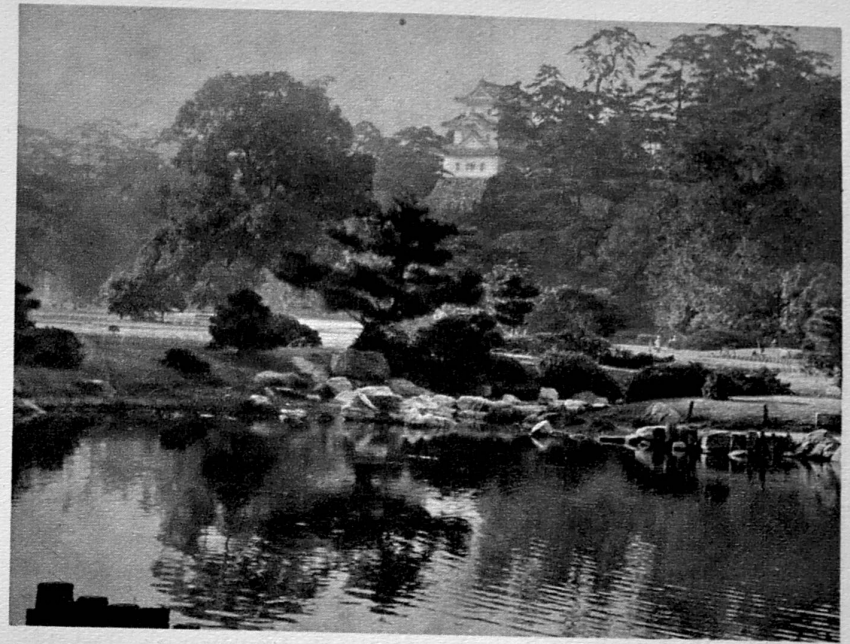
The feudal lords, in order to guard and protect their territorial possessions, had formerly been obliged to maintain, in addition to their main castles, not a few castles, secondary in position and subsidiary in purpose, but forming with the chief strongholds an extensive system of fortification planned to secure communication within the borders, to command a sufficient field of vision and to offer an adequate protection of the border districts. Before the country had been brought under a unified administrative control, the feudatories had several at least, and sometimes as many as two or three scores of castles of such a character. These fortifications dwindled in importance under the age of peace which the country was now to see. What is more, from the point of view of national peace, which was now the aim of the central government, no local activity or undertaking of a military nature could be viewed with either approval or indifference. It was therefore only to be expected that, when the Tokugawas had been placed in a position to administer their despotic rule in consequence of the downfall, in 1615, of one of the two

influences between which the country had been divided, they should lose no time in ordering the feudatories to destroy all but their own main castles. Thus, by command of the central government, the feudatories destroyed their subsidiary strongholds. From what has already been said it is easy to see that the importance of these subsidiary castles had declined. How then did the feudatories resolve the difficulty? They now concentrated at their main castles, the guards, arms and provisions which had hitherto been kept in their subsidiary strongholds. In these circumstances, the main castle of which each feudal domain was possessed, now developed into an establishment on a scale larger than it had been in the past. It must be noted that in the early days of feudalism the samurais, or men of the armed profession, lived in many cases in rural districts and sometimes engaged in agricultural work. This state of affairs continued until about the 14th century, when they found themselves no longer safe or able to live scattered and individually, in consequence of civil wars breaking out on many sides. They had to be brought together at castles and close to their liege lords so as to be kept constantly on guard against any emergency. These men swelled the population of the castles and castle towns, contributing to their material development. Under the rule of the Toyotomis and of the Tokugawas, a clear line of distinction was drawn between the warrior and the agricultural classes. Members of the agricultural class, from which all arms were taken away, were ordered to return to the farms and keep themselves busy there only. The armed classes, at the same time,



Okayama Castle, seen from Kōrakuen Park

were ordered to make their homes in towns and cities, and were enjoined against engaging in any pursuit but their own. When the minor castles were ordered to be done away with, streams of armed men began to turn away from the defunct citadels in the provinces and pour into the main castles or their adjoining towns to take up their living quarters, there developed towns and cities of considerable populations with the feudal castles as their centres. Under the peaceful conditions of life, which were now the order of the day, commerce and industry saw great developments. People engaged in these lines, in order to cater for the demands of the armed classes which were consumers, began to flock around the castles, eventually to give birth to the quarters formed exclusively for commerce and industry in the



Akashi Castle

close neighbourhood of the fortified areas. The present towns and cities of Japan, for the most part, had their foundations laid in such conditions as mentioned above, at one time or another about three hundred years ago. In some cases the feudal lords, in view of the growing importance that such commercial and industrial quarters had come to assume in the economic activity flourishing within their own domains, saw cause to throw up earthworks and ditches around those parts of their towns.

All these castles were surrendered to the Imperial central government in the second year after the Restoration, viz. 1869, when the feudal system was abolished. Today it is a rule, however, to make national treasures of buildings of any importance and to preserve them as such.

II. VARIETY AND CONSTRUCTION OF CASTLES

It is now proposed to explain the structure of a castle in the same order that we should approach it were we, intent on its inspection, moving towards it from a distance. We shall therefore examine it as we proceed to its grounds, eventually to reach its centre. In approaching our subject in such a manner we should be taking up the subject much the same as our military architects or strategists of ancient times would have done in designing or laying out a castle.

In making a study of Japanese castles, it will be well to form an idea at the outset of what they stood for in olden times and what position they held in the life prevailing in those times. Those castles which are today to be seen in historic cities and towns are almost without exception what used to be, under the reign of the Tokugawa Shogunate, the homes of feudal lords and the seats, at the same time, of their governments. These structures marked the cities or towns which were the very centres of economic, social and cultural life that had been developed in each feudal territory.

The Japanese castles before the Tokugawa Period presented many varieties of design. Divers strategic considerations called into being fortifications of almost as many kinds. There were fortified places of grandiose as well as of modest dimensions, some permanent and some temporary establishments. Some were main



Central portion of "castle-on-plain-and-mountain" (Himeji Castle)

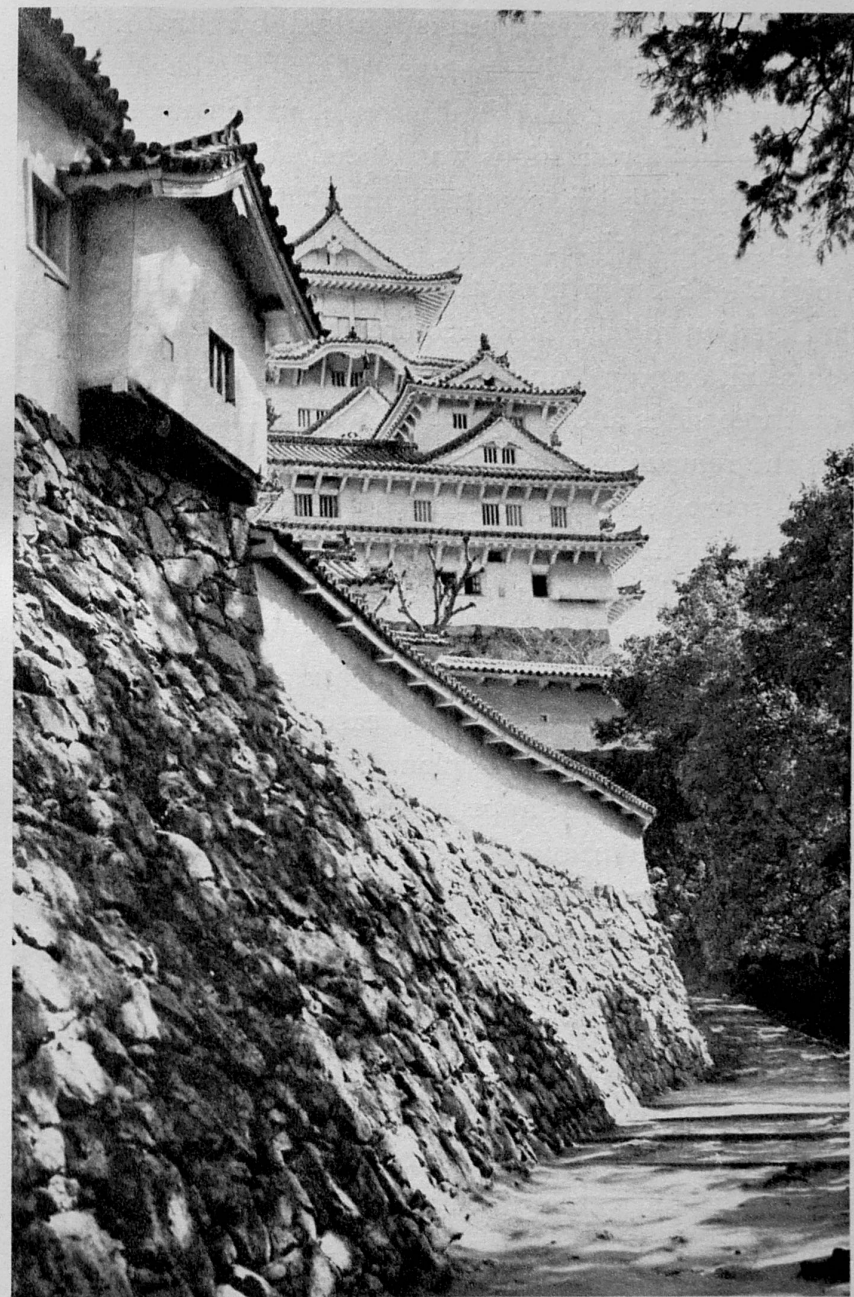
castles and some were branch or subsidiary castles, while others were little more than camping places. As varied were the purposes for which they were designed and built; some as frontier defences; some as border outposts; some to form part of a general defensive system; and some for purely offensive operations. All these fortifications, however, were demolished under the rule of the Tokugawas, with the exception of main or permanent strongholds which were suffered to remain for two and a half centuries, in fact, to this day.

These existing castles, from their nature, are situated at points of importance as regards the local communication of the country they are placed in. Their sites were chosen close to the sea or large rivers which afford facilities for shipping, the best means of trans-

porting goods. From their nature as the seats of local government, they were as a rule placed at central parts of the provinces in which they were built. These considerations were required for military, economic and strategic reasons.

As the residence and seat of government of a feudatory, and as a town thriving under his patronage, it was not desirable that the castle should be situated at any place of inaccessible height. Nevertheless, from the strategic point of view, it was of advantage to choose a lofty location whence wide, unobstructed views could be commanded. Such a location was also desirable for the artistic appearances to be imparted to the castle, no less than for the effect that might be produced by its lofty grandeur upon the minds of the subjects in time of peace or war. As a matter of fact, a hill or elevation meeting these requirements seldom failed to be chosen for the site of a castle.

The military strategist of those days classified the castles from the topographical features of their location into the three categories of "castle-on-mountain," "castle-on-plain" and "castle-on-plain-and-mountain." From the considerations such as those described above, the last-named, i.e. the strongholds designed by taking advantage of both plain and hill, predominated in number. This type of castle, historically speaking, was a new product in the course of technical development by combining the "castles-on-plain" into which the residences on plain ground of feudal lordships had been developed some several centuries before, with the "castles-on-mountain," which had temporarily been built in time

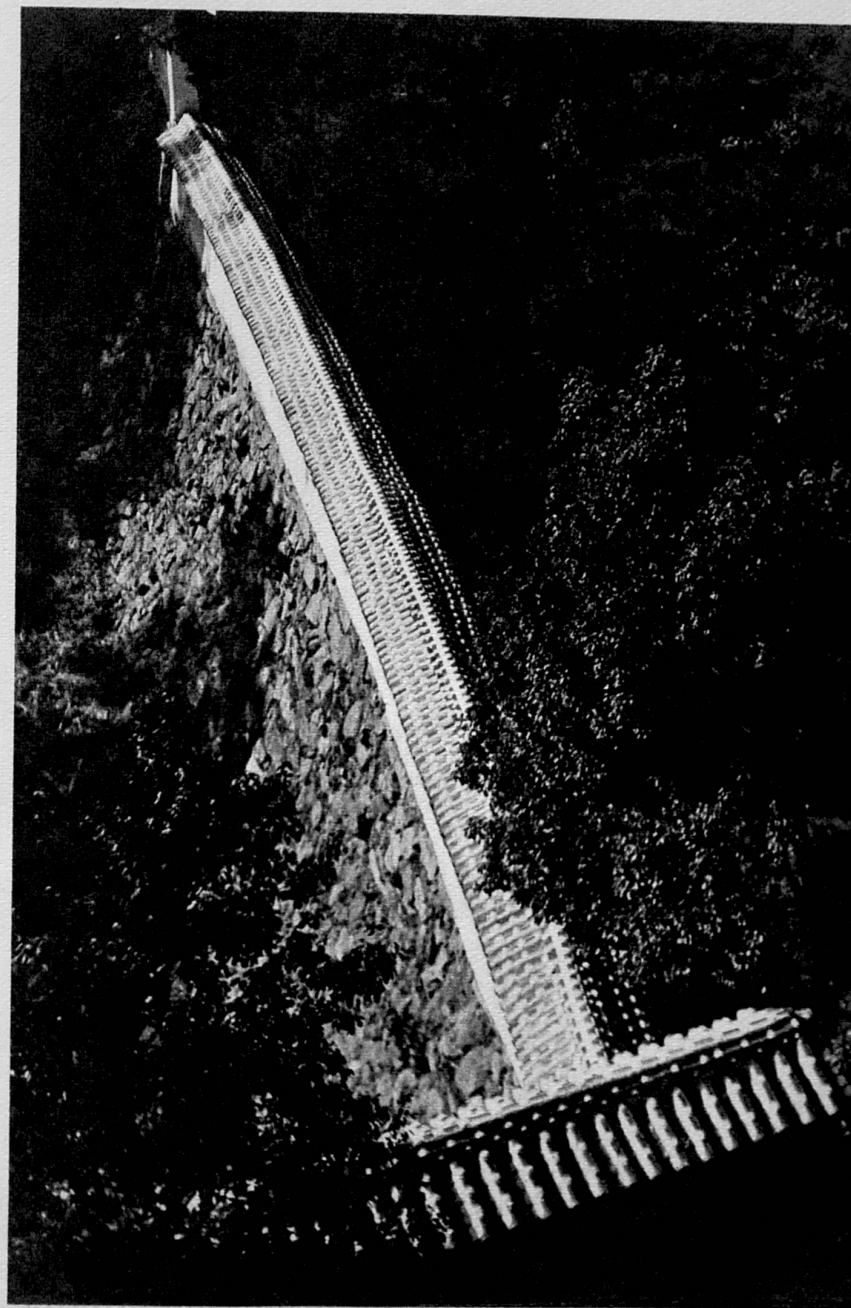


Castle wall and tower-keep (Himeji Castle)

of war upon eminent peaks marked by strategic advantages afforded by nature. One of the essential requirements was that the hill or elevation upon which the heart of fortifications was placed should be isolated from other hills or mountains, or that there should be in its neighbourhood no high place whence the enemy might look down upon the castle. In case there was no location to fulfil these requirements a site was chosen on a hill or promontory which looks out over low plains on three sides and is connected with a hill or mountain on the remaining side. In designing castles the strategists spared no pains to turn the topographical features of the neighbourhood to the greatest military advantage possible. With a view to keeping the enemy outside the defensive lines, the sole purpose for which a castle was built in any case, natural cliffs and sharp rising grounds were in many cases taken advantage of and incorporated in the plan.

Next, as to the appearance of a castle, as observed both from plane angles and also as a solid structure. From these points of view, it must be noted that the Japanese castles are marked with features without parallel, not only in other parts of the Far East but even in any other country of the world.

Castles are invariably provided with areas surrounded by walls and moats. These areas which are called Kuruwa (courts) were many in number and formed an intricate system which was not always easy to comprehend. These areas were provided sometimes on the same plane and sometimes at different elevations, their arrangement being one of the points to



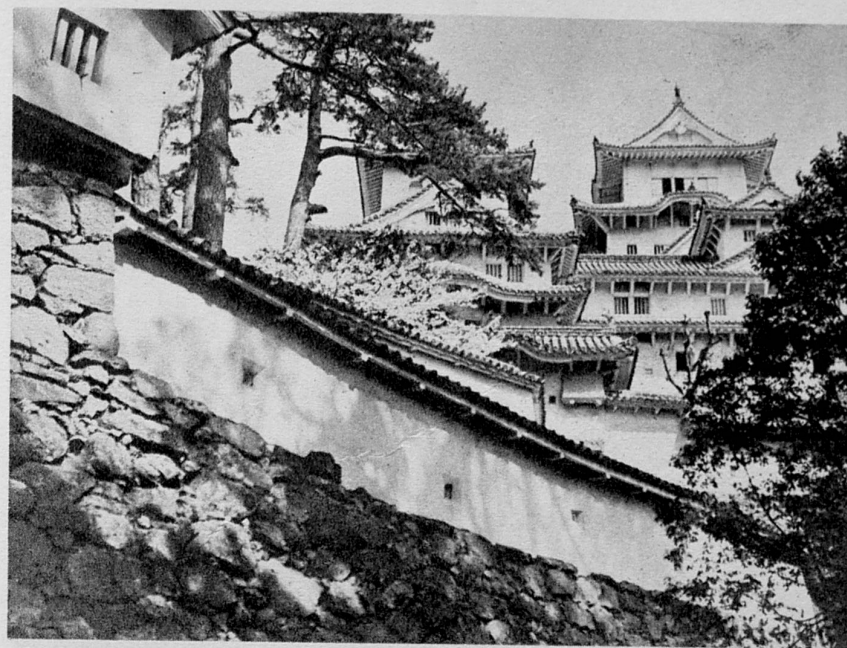
Walls of Himeji Castle



Castle wall cut in for loopholes of various sorts (Himeji Castle)

which strategists used to attach the greatest importance. Such work of planning was known as *nawabari*, "marking with ropes." As the term indicates it was a custom, whenever castle architecture was to be undertaken, to lay out on the site a series of ropes according to the plan, so as to fix the position of each structure to be set up.

The courts were generally designed in a series of three concentric circles, their centre being raised above the rest. The area at the centre was called Hon-maru (main or innermost court); that in the middle Nino-maru (the second court); and that on the outside Sanno-maru (the third court). In the case of a larger castle, there were, in addition to the above, two or three outlying courts which were called Sotoguruwa or Sōguruwa (the



Tower-keep and castle wall (Himeji Castle)

outer courts). Each of these courts was mapped out lengthwise and crosswise on such a system that any line of defence, if captured by the enemy, might be recovered from another line.

When a series of ropes was laid out properly, walls were thrown up and moats dug. In earlier times such walls were invariably of earth. It was not until the time of Nobunaga or Hideyoshi, when firearms had come into general use, that stone walls began to supplant earthworks at more vital points, the earthen defences being built mainly in outer parts of the fortifications. The stone walls such as were built, are distinguished both by the way of laying stones and by the outward contour common to them. The stones used are of varied size, though all are roughly hewn.



Castle gate, seen from a point within the walls (Himeji Castle)

These are placed as if piled in haphazard ways, but as a matter of fact were so laid one upon another that they fitted into compact solidness by their own weight. The outward contour is concave in shape. The stones were so placed that their smaller sides turned outwards and the thicker sides turned inwards. Behind these stones was built up a layer of small round pebbles. Stone walls thus formed the outside of the defences, the interior portions being of earth. The stone walls of Japanese castles are marked by the absence of bricks or of regularity in cut stones as is so with brick masonry. The standard height of a stone wall was 20 feet, though it is in some instances as high as 130 feet. The earthen walls in their cross sections presented a wedge form, sloping outwards at the base.



Castle gate of "Masu-gata" type (Nagoya Castle)

Their dimensions were, as a rule, 20 feet in height, 50 feet thick at the base, and sloping at an angle of more than 45 degrees.

Moats are usually filled with water. Their standard measurements are 65 feet wide and 20 feet deep, though, as a matter of fact, there are not a few of greater dimensions, some of them being not rarely upwards of 330 feet wide.

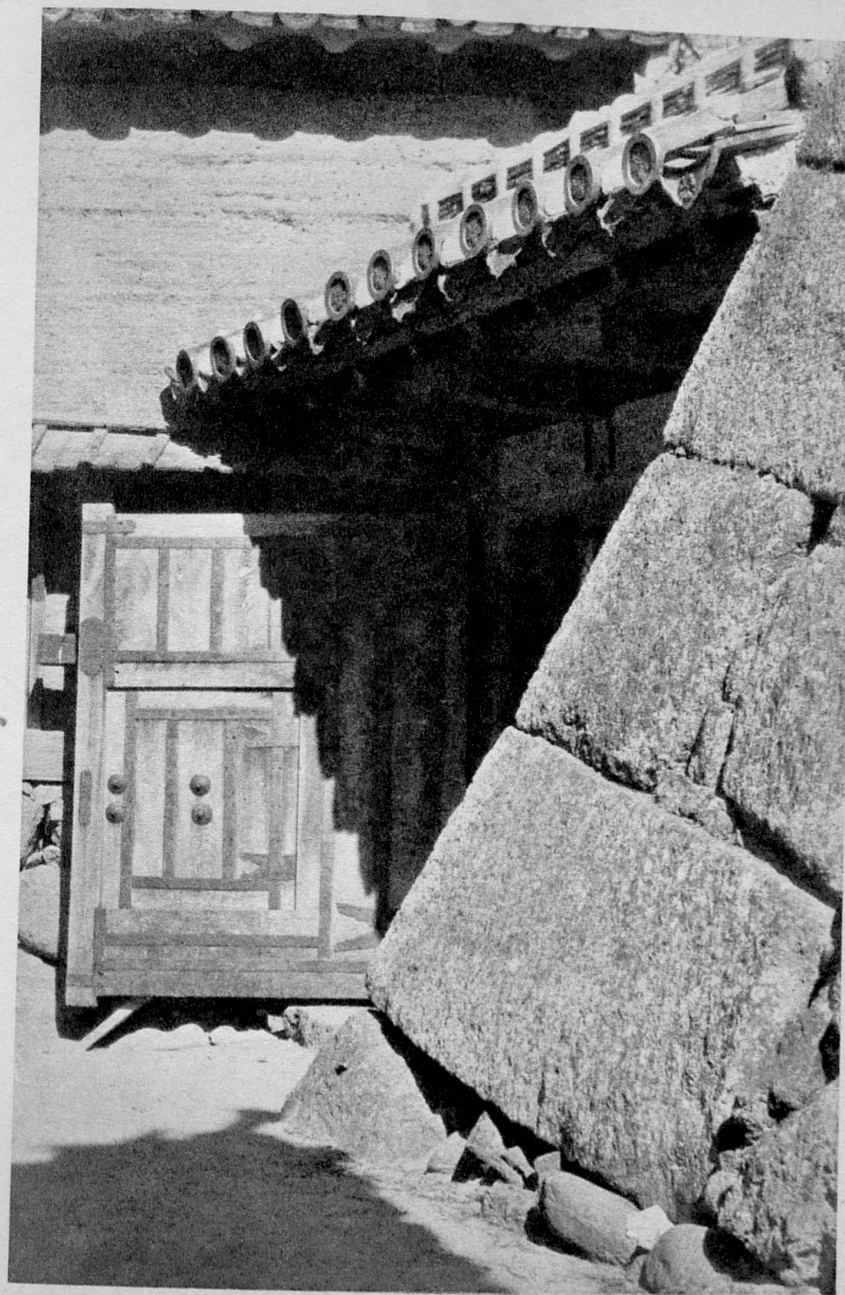
Castle walls are in many instances provided with bends and curves which afford cover or lateral defence for those who would lie in wait for the besiegers.

Roadways are provided across the moats to pass in and out of the castle. There are not less, and often more, than two of such passages. The one at the front is called Ōte (the main entrance), meaning the "meet-

ing place." It was so called because the two contesting forces were always to meet there in their frontal clash. The passage on the postern is called Karamete, meaning the place where captives are to be made. In opposing a superior besieging army, it often happened that some defenders, in the hope of striking the assaulters at some unguarded points, sallied forth from postern quarters, only as often, to be met by the besiegers who had anticipated such a tactical movement.

Upon the top of the walls palisades were provided. Behind them was planted a row of trees, pine-trees being the most popular choice. The idea is at once to shield the inner quarters from arrows and bullets, and to veil from the outside view as much of the interior as possible. What is more, these trees were planted to give as many scenic touches as might befit the lord's garden, which of course his castle was in a sense. Even in such little things the Japanese soldiery showed their love of nature. Within the outer walls, too, rising ground and other places otherwise exposed to outside view, were placed under cover of green foliage, to veil movements of soldiers behind the defences. The trees and plants used for such purposes were called by the military architects *uemono*, which means that which is planted.

Castles were provided with not a few gates. In this particular point, the Japanese strongholds are in clear contrast with those built in Europe after the 15th or 16th century. The European castles of the time were provided with one entrance in the front where the assaulters were received, and another on the



Minor gate and its studded door (Himeji Castle)

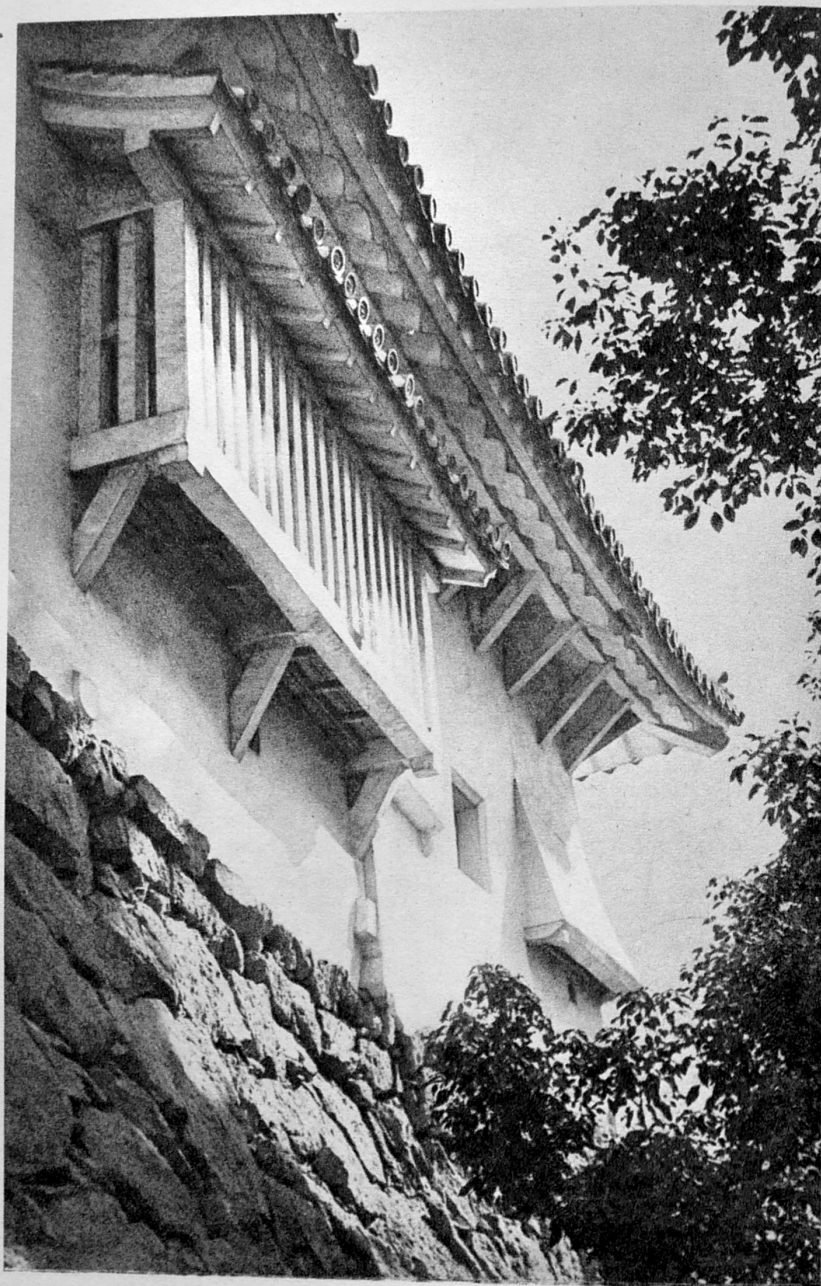
opposite or postern side. The Japanese castles were conceived and designed as the means of developing offensive operations under a given condition. Here may be noted an evidence of the combative vigour of the Japanese soldiery. Here also may be found the proof of how the castles were regarded or built in Japan not for refuge only, but for both defence and offence as well.

The entrances were provided with a pair of gates in each instance. Either outside or inside the line of walls an open square space was enclosed. As one enters at the first gate he comes into this enclosed space, and then proceeds on to the second gate. The first and the second gates are usually placed at right angles to each other; that is to say, passing in at the first gate, one is at once to turn to the right or left at right angles to go on towards the second gateway. The square space enclosed between these gateways is called *Masu-gata* (the shape of the measuring vessel). The measuring vessel called *masu*, in common use in Japan, is square-shaped and used for measuring liquid or corn. The enclosed space in question was so called because of the similarity in shape it bears to this measure, and also because the soldiers used to be marshalled within this place so that a commander could "measure out" or number them as they were sent forth against the besiegers, or do likewise when they were brought back into the castle from action without.

The moats are crossed by bridges, some of which were drawbridges, and those which were hung as well



Corner-keep provided with peculiar type of device for dropping stones
(Nagoya Castle)



Bay window and hole for dropping stones (Himeji Castle)

as those which could be withdrawn. There were also bridges covered with roofs or provided with walls on both sides.

Passing inside, diverse structures may be seen on top of the walls. These castle structures are gates, fences, Tamon, towers, main tower-keep, etc.

Of the double gates seen where Masu-gata has been adopted, the first is a roofed structure called Kōrai-mon, while the second gate is a tower. The tower or second gate is generally built across the space between the stone walls and, therefore, called Watari-yagura, meaning the tower that bridges two sides.

At Japanese castles there are structures called Yagura, which means the place where arrows are stored. In the days before firearms, when the arrows were the chief weapons, they were stored within these structures from whose windows, upon the approach of the enemy, these missiles were shot. Hence, their name.

Upon the top of the walls there may also be seen a long structure of one story, which is a variety of Yagura, called Tamon. The origin of the name is not clear. It is held by some that a feudal lord named Matsunaga Hisahide, master of the castle of Tamon in the province of Yamato (Nara Prefecture) in the time of Nobunaga (about 1570), originated this sort of structure as his stronghold, and hence the name. Others trace it to Tamonten, the war deity of Buddhism, the term "ten" being a Buddhist word signifying the ranking of deities.

At some corners or points of importance upon the



"Tamon" at Himeji Castle

castle grounds may be noted a tower of two or three stories. Those which stand at a corner are called Sumi-yagura (corner-towers). From these buildings views used to be taken of the enemy camp outside so as to give direction to the operations against it.

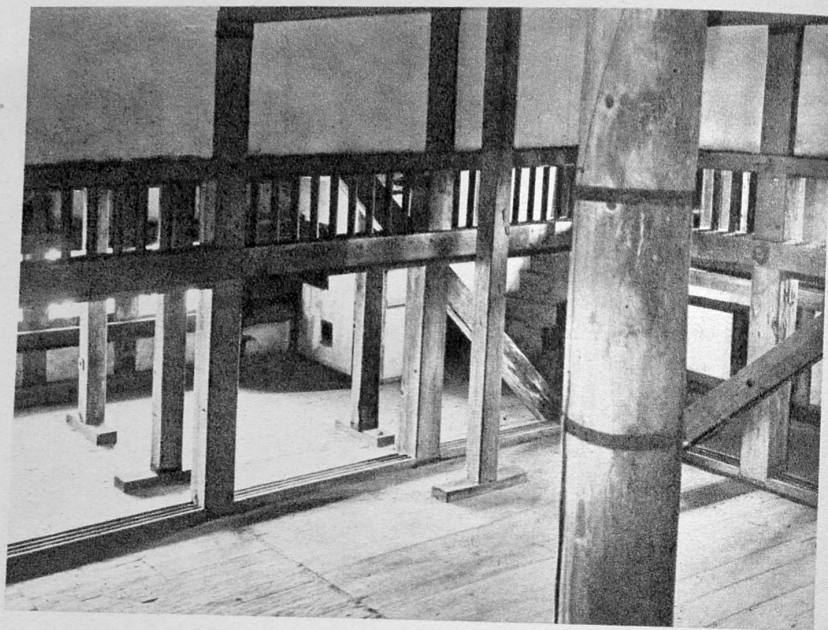
That which is the largest among the tower structures, and which forms the heart of a castle is the Tenshu-kaku, *kaku* meaning a high structure. The Tenshu-kaku, which is not unlike the donjon or keep seen at a European stronghold, is not, however, its imitation in any way, but a pure native architectural production developed in the period between, roughly speaking, 1570 and 1615. The name *tenshu*, though identical in sound with the term meaning "master of heaven," by which Japanese Christians of the 16th



A portion of tower-keep (Osaka Castle)

century called their god, has in fact nothing to do with the Christian religion. The term may more properly be regarded as of Buddhist origin, meaning "heavenly protector"; an interpretation, in our opinion, not improbable, as may be seen from the fact that the name Tamonten, the war deity of the same religion, and as the protector of the master of the castle, is used in designating a particular sort of structure, subordinate to the tower-keep, as mentioned above.

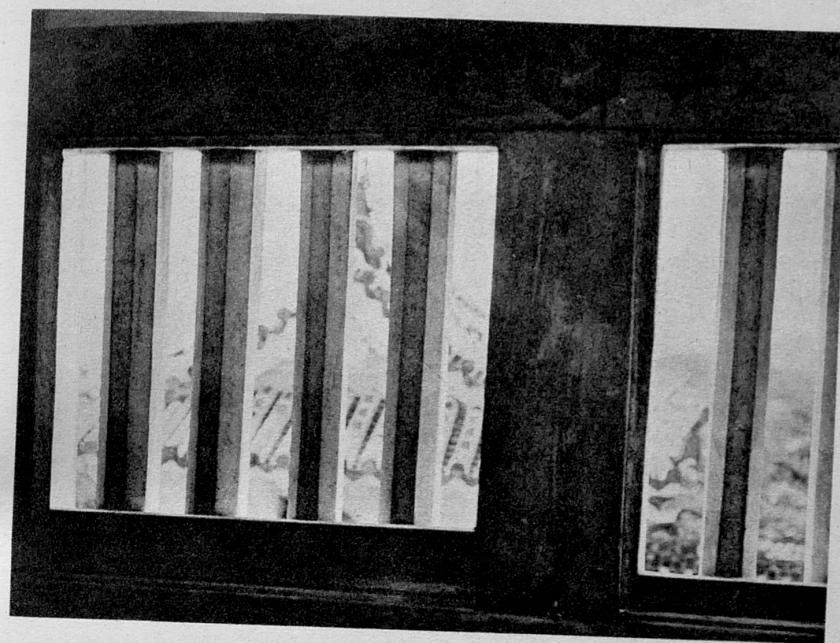
The Tenshu-kaku, or tower-keeps, were high structures of three and sometimes of as many as seven stories. Their outward appearances, in some cases, are far from corresponding to the interior designs. In not a few instances underground compartments were provided within the foundations built with stone.



Inside of tower-keep (Himeji Castle)

The tower-keeps were for the following purposes :

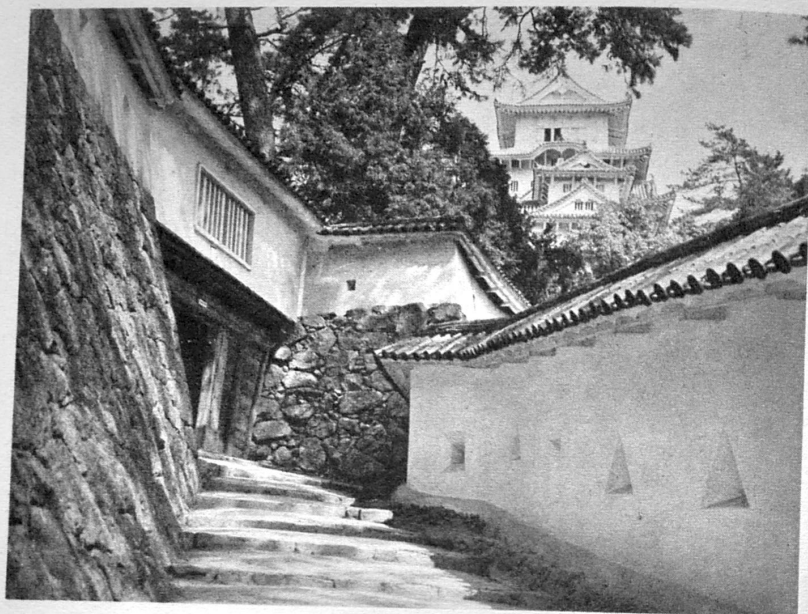
- a.* observation of places within and without the castle grounds ;
- b.* commanding station to issue orders to within and without the castle ;
- c.* storing arms and provisions ;
- d.* the last refuge in the event of the castle falling into the hands of the enemy ;
- e.* the living quarters of the castle master in time of war ;
- f.* as a symbol of the acme of the powers commanded by the lord of the castle ;
- g.* as the central mark to which the people within the lord's castle and domain might turn with loyal minds.



"Renji" windows of tower-keep (Himeji Castle)

With these aims the tower-keep was built at the centre and the highest point of the castle grounds, whence might be commanded the most extensive field of vision, rearing its head as the most solid and lofty structure, like a monarch peak above all else, at such prodigal expense as the lord and master of the domain could afford.

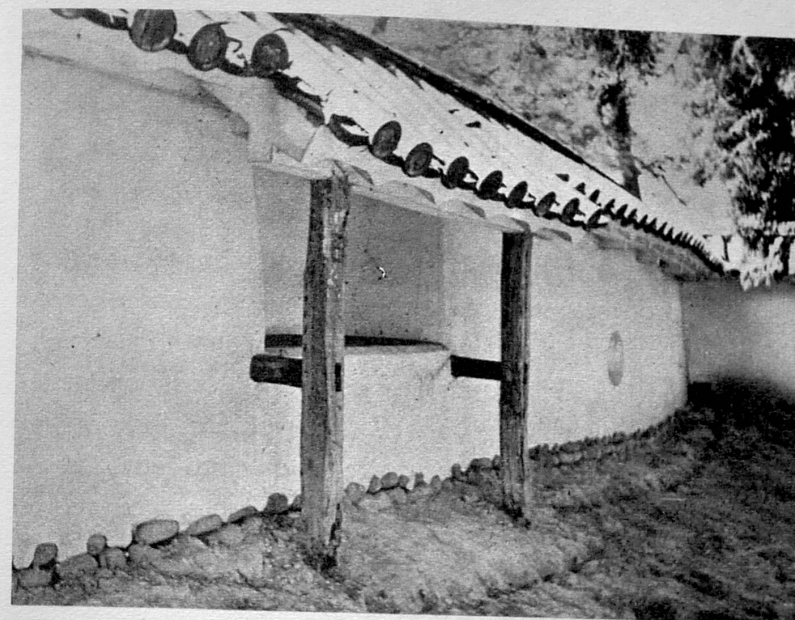
From an architectural point of view, the tower-keeps are remarkable for the windows and gables arranged in intricate combination, and for the grandiose scale on which the towers were conceived, features in both instances not to be met with in any temples of Shintō or Buddhism, or in ordinary residential buildings. In the towers of more elaborate design the topmost floor was sometimes provided on four sides with a balcony



Interior view of castle wall provided with loopholes (Himeji Castle)

and its balustrade, and with fanciful-shaped windows called Katō-mado, of which we shall speak more later. The ridge of the topmost roof was sometimes ornamented with figures of dolphins which, as well as the tiles, were plated with gold. There are 16 tower-keeps extant, of which those of Nagoya and Himeji are the most typical.

The Japanese castles, which were built in the days when arrows and firearms were used side by side in war, are structures of wooden beams, plaster and tile roof, though powder magazines were sometimes built of stone. The outside walls of towers and other structures were cut down for loopholes out of which the defenders shot arrows and guns against the besiegers. The loopholes provided for the arrows are



Interior view of hole for dropping stones (Himeji Castle)

rectangular, while those for the guns are circular, triangular or sometimes square. The basements on which the palisades stood are in some instances provided with loopholes. Corners and outside walls of castle structures were fitted with places known as Ishiotoshi (dropping stones), whence, as the name indicates, stones were dropped upon the assailants below.

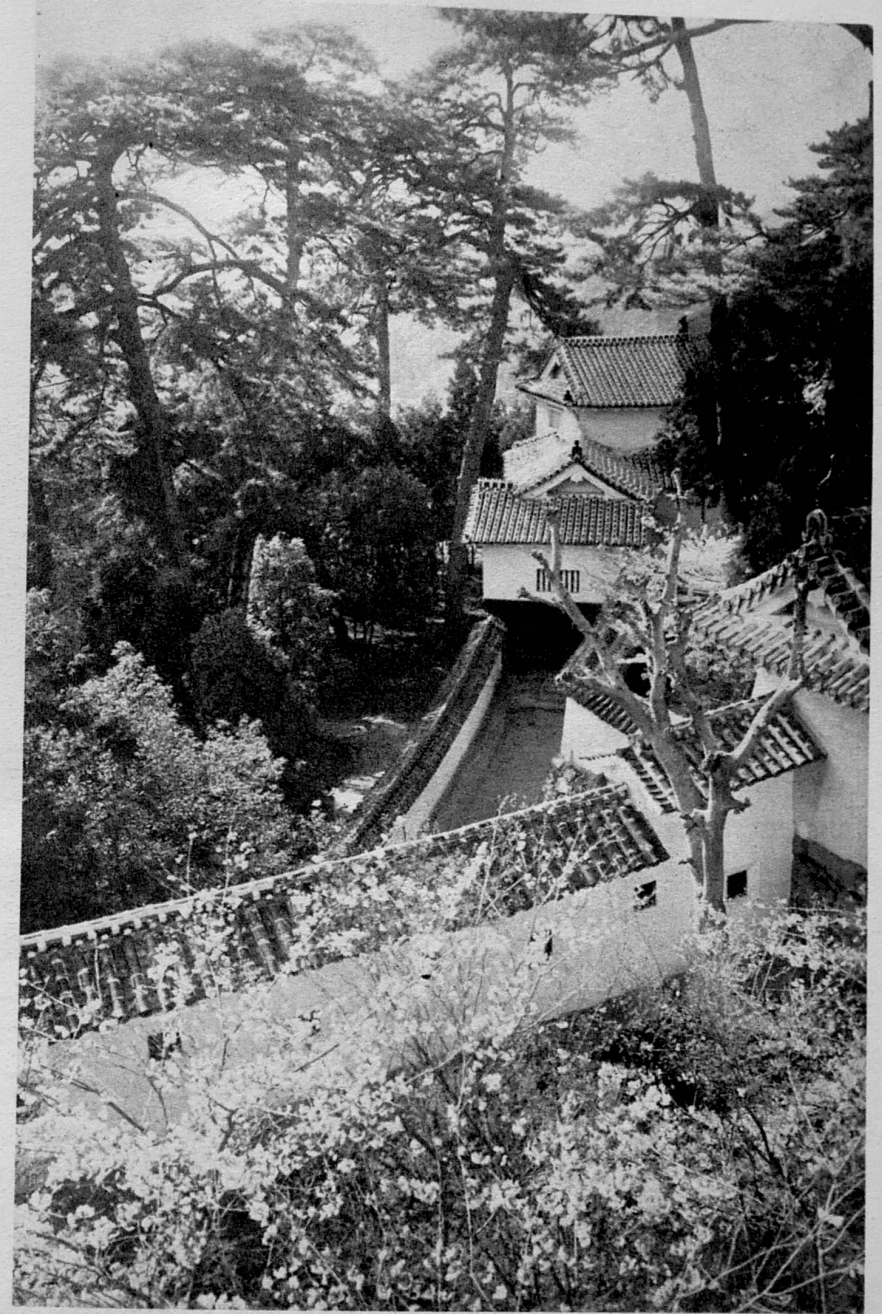
Tower-keeps of castles, with the exception of pagodas at Buddhist temples, are the highest and the most imposing pieces of architecture to be seen in Japan. They are not only valuable from the architectural point of view but important as marks of artistic achievement in the history of our nation.

III. ATTRACTIVE APPEARANCES OF CASTLES

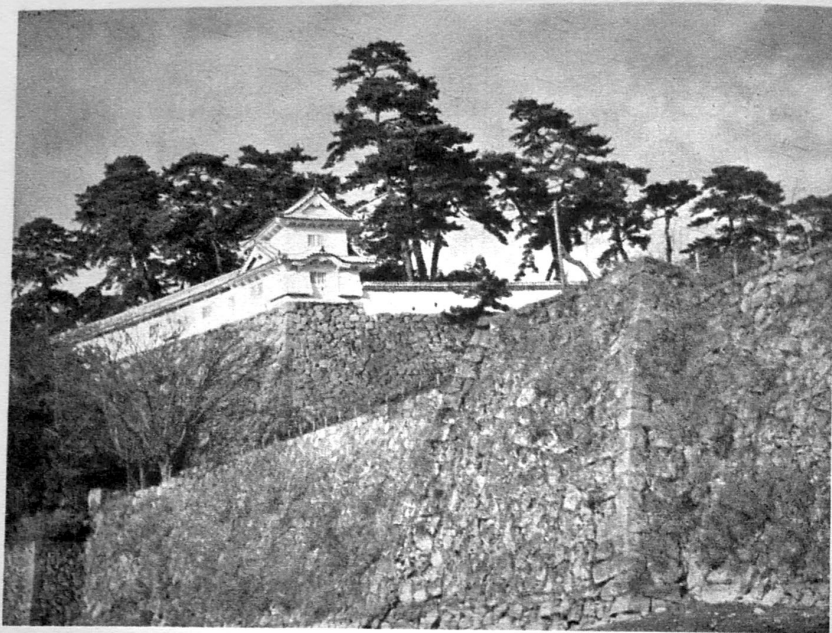
Japanese castles, as has been said, were conceived not as temporary undertakings to meet wartime conditions only, but as permanent establishments in which were placed the living quarters of feudal lords and the seat of their government as well. It was for this reason that efforts were made to make them into structures of impressive magnitude and artistic effects. In more than one sense, they may be regarded as representative of the greatest composite work of art achieved in the ages when the influence of the warrior classes was in the ascendant.

Not only individual pieces of architecture such as towers and gates, but the whole establishment is a happy combination of many artistic conceptions. A series of courts located and arranged so as to turn them to the best military advantage, earthen walls, stone walls, moats and trees, all these were combined to produce objects grandiose in scale and conception, and intricate in their artistic arrangement. In these respects the strongholds of these ages are of considerable interest when compared with the structures of Chaseki (tea-rooms), which rose into public favour at the same period of history.

First, as to the characteristic features of the grounds upon which castles generally stand. In the fortifications of these ages which are in most instances known



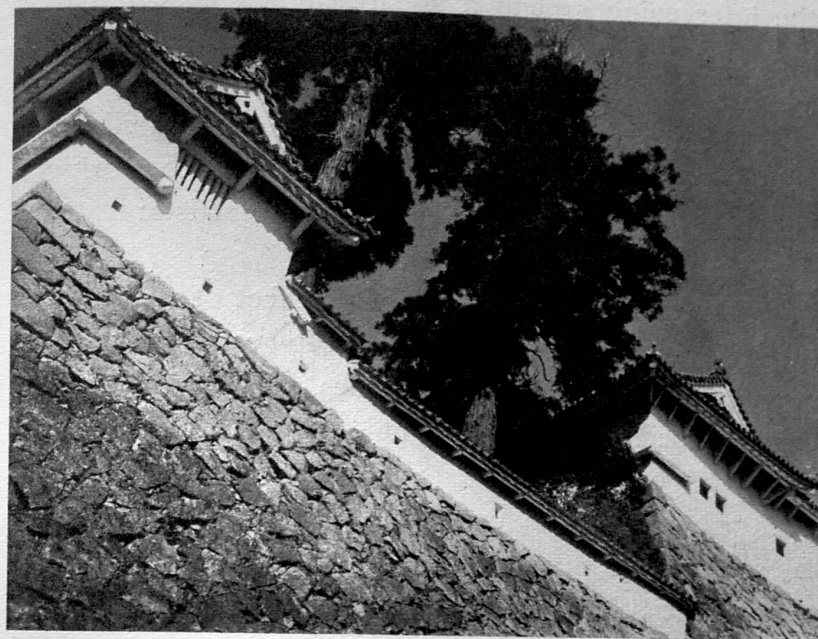
Happy composition of keep, gate and walls (Himeji Castle)



"Tamon" and corner-tower (Himeji Castle)

as "castles-on-plain-and-mountain," a type which has already been explained, you will as a rule find many ancient trees of large girth and deep foliage, growing upon a series of open grounds arranged one upon another and sloping in towards their concentric apex. At the highest point of these rising grounds a number of structures of varied sorts stand with the tower-keep as their centre. The most typical of the existent strongholds of this kind are those to be seen at the cities of Himeji, Hikone, Wakayama, Matsuyama, Kōchi, etc.

The earthen walls present a line of gentle slope covered with grass of a velvety green. For the softness of their line they are comparable to pictures of Yamato-e type, and in some sense are suggestive of Mount Mikasa of Nara.



Variety of loopholes and holes for dropping stones (Himeji castle)

The stone walls play a leading part in producing the artistic effects of castles. Their subdued tone and stones of varied size and shape laid and arranged apparently without order or design, but really with carefully studied effects, and the subdued tone of the walls themselves remind one of the stones used in the architecture of Japanese gardens. These walls are anything but structures of mathematical precision or monotone such, for instance, as are often seen in brick masonry. These walls, because of their outside show of concave line and many bends and frequent curvatures, produce a composite beauty of impressive force, adding solemnity to the outward looks of the whole stronghold.

The presence of double gateways, forming out of

the intervening ground a square-shaped space, makes the approach to the castle a matter of considerable interest.

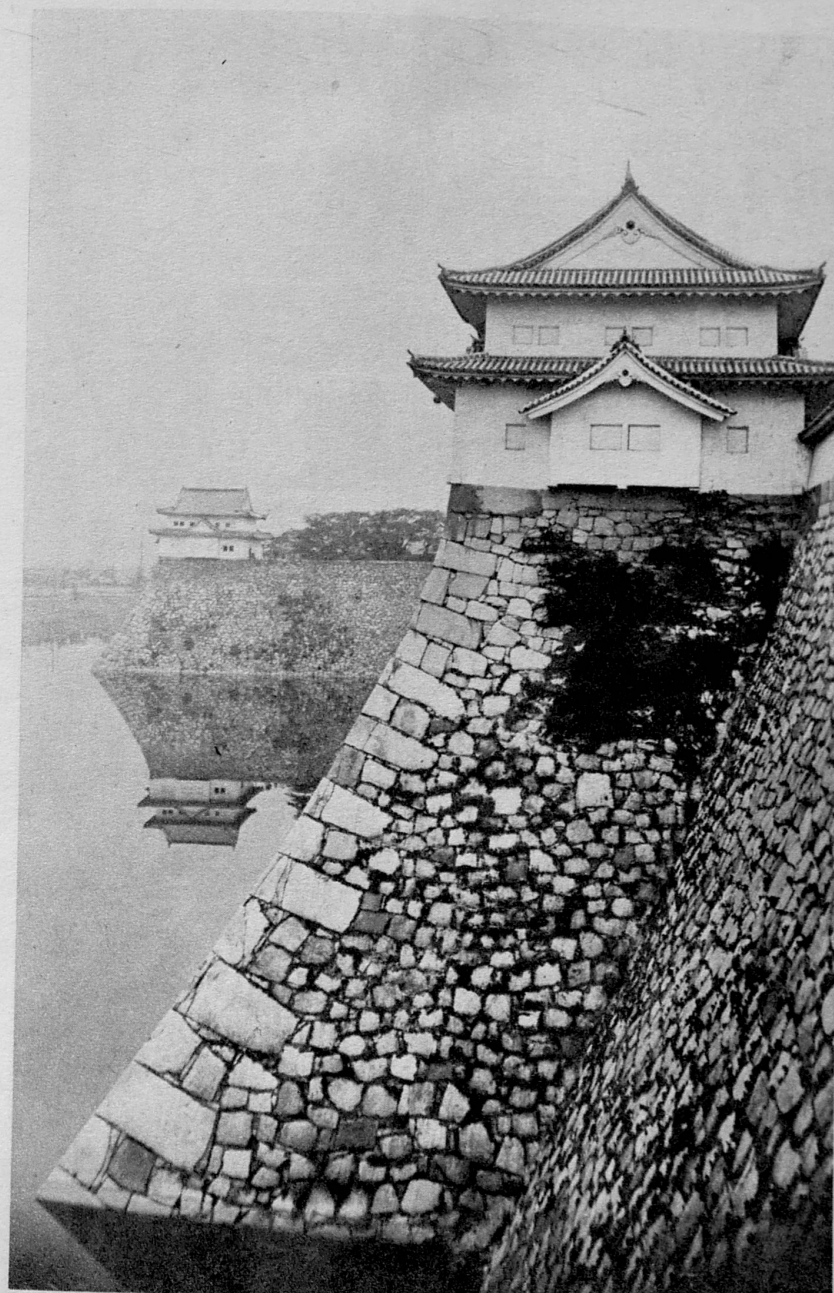
The attractive appearance of broad moats filled up with water is well matched by those of the bridges built across them and each marked with artistic features peculiar to Japanese bridges.

What is essential to the scenic effect of a Japanese castle is an abundant foliage of deep green. The trees most frequently met with are pines. Their appearance being associated with thoughts of lordly dignity and their foliage prized for its unchanging freshness, these trees are planted to constitute important elements in the scenic effect of any stronghold. In some instances, alongside castles are gardens of great beauty. These gardens, though laid out to provide a reservoir of water against military emergency, always serve to add attractive sights.

Amidst the general effects produced by such arrangement as that described above, there stand the tower-keep, lesser towers, gates and other structures equally of artistic significance, all according to the elaborate composite plan of the architect.

What form essential points in the architectural beauty of a castle are its roof, the shape and arrangement of its gables, windows, loopholes, etc., especially the comparative proportions presented by a succession of roofs varied in point of dimension and form, walls, balustrades, carvings in wood, wherever they are found, metal work and paintings in colour or otherwise.

The attractiveness of castle architecture lies, not a



Stone wall representative of typical native art and corner-keep
(Osaka Castle)



Two kinds of gable known as "Chidori-hafu" and "Kara-hafu"

little, in the shape of roofs and their composite effect. The shape of roofs in a castle tower is almost without exception what is known as *Irimoya-tsukuri*. This style, marked by graceful line and shape, has been used from very early days in the roofs of palatial structures to which was to be given dignity befitting the exalted personages for whom they were designed, or in temples and shrines where solemnity was aimed at for religious purposes. A happy choice, therefore, was made when this particular style was adopted for the shape of castle roofs to impart dignity and sometimes solemn grandeur to the fortified establishments.

In the modern age of Japanese history which dates from the second half of the 17th century, the ecclesiastical architecture of Shintoism developed elaborate compositions such as may be seen at the Kitano Shrine of Kyoto, a style known as *Yatsumune-tsukuri*, meaning a composition of eight roofs. The effect is obtained by an arrangement of varied roof lines. The architectural development of this sort, however, was conspicuous for its simplicity from the point of view of elevation, being confined to single-floored structures. The castle towers, when compared with them, are simpler in their planes, but considerably more complex in their perspective elevations. In this particular respect at least, the castle structures may be said to have attained the highest point reached in Japanese architecture. To be sure, there are multiple-roofed structures such as pagodas to be seen at Buddhist temples; but in the shape of their roofs, in the proportionate contrast of the successive floors, as well as in designs

and arrangements of windows, they are far from comparable with the castle structures of an unmistakably more elaborate conception.

The roofs of castle buildings are provided with not a few gables, another attractive feature characteristic of their branch of architecture. During the Momoyama Period, from 1580 to 1630, gables were as a matter of fashion adopted not only in residential buildings but in religious structures of both Shintoism and Buddhism. The gables seen in these ages, by no means so general, were of two kinds known respectively as Chidori-hafu and Kara-hafu. In no instance, however, have gables been used so freely or elaborately as in castle architecture. By the combined use of these two kinds of gable, the one being triangular in shape and the other differentiated from it by its apex flowing into a line parallel to that of the cornice, attraction was added in a good measure to the outward looks of architectural objects. What gives an appearance of commanding dignity and importance to the roofs and gables are their gentle curvature, without which the roofs would be decidedly prosaic, lacking in impressiveness.

Castle structures, as may be imagined from the name, *yagura* (arrow storehouses), by which they were called, were primarily meant as places for storing arms and also as part of the defences of the stronghold. They were therefore provided with windows and entrances small in size and very few in number. Built for purposes different from ordinary dwelling-places, the matter of ventilation or lighting received but little attention. Exceptional instances are seen only in the



Complicated arrangement of window of "Katō" type and gables
(Hikone Castle)

topmost floor of tower-keeps, which, as a sort of high observation tower, are sometimes provided with large windows and balconies with balustrades on four sides in order to open them to as wide views as possible.

The castle windows are square-shaped as a rule; but the topmost floor of a tower-keep and sometimes tower-gates are provided with windows known as Katō-mado. This type of window was originally used in Buddhist architecture, but in consequence of the growing influence of the same religion upon the cultural life of the nation, it became fashionable in the 15th century to adopt this sort of window for decorative purposes.

The comparative proportions of the successive roofs have considerable effect upon the outward appearance

of the whole castle structure. In case any two successive roofs are marked by but few differences in point of dimension, as seen in the case of Buddhist pagodas, or when the topmost section is disproportionately small in comparison with the other stories, the design is regarded as neither successful nor proper. The approved style is to have the topmost section properly reduced in dimensions in comparison with the other members of the structure. It often happens that errors committed in this respect are remedied by the use of gables.

The ridge of the topmost roof is sometimes marked with traditional images of *shachi*, somewhat misleadingly translated as a "dolphin." These images were used not only as ornaments but as charms against evil spirits and fire. They are sometimes gilded. Regarded as productive of a sense of stateliness, they served as one of the effective elements to enhance the martial impressions of castles, an idea in all probability akin to that which is shown in the use of a pair of upstanding decorative metal pieces at the front of a helmet.

Castles are not painted on the exterior in bright colour such as red or blue, as often is seen in Buddhist architecture; nor are they decorated with drawn designs or elaborate carvings on woodwork. The only exception to be noted is that of Toyotomi Hideyoshi who, being inveterately partial to any gorgeous display, is said to have had the tower-keep of his castle decorated on the exterior with designs of painted or carved cranes and tigers of golden splendour. Among other lords or military chieftains there was not an



Tower-keep of Himeji Castle adorned with tile-made dolphin

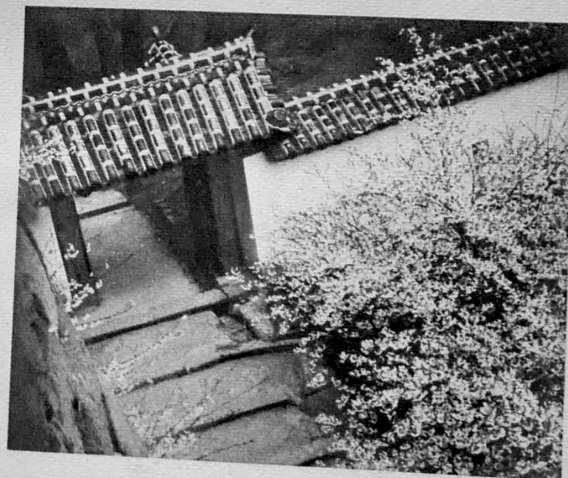


Ornaments on the upper portion of the tower-keep (Osaka Castle)

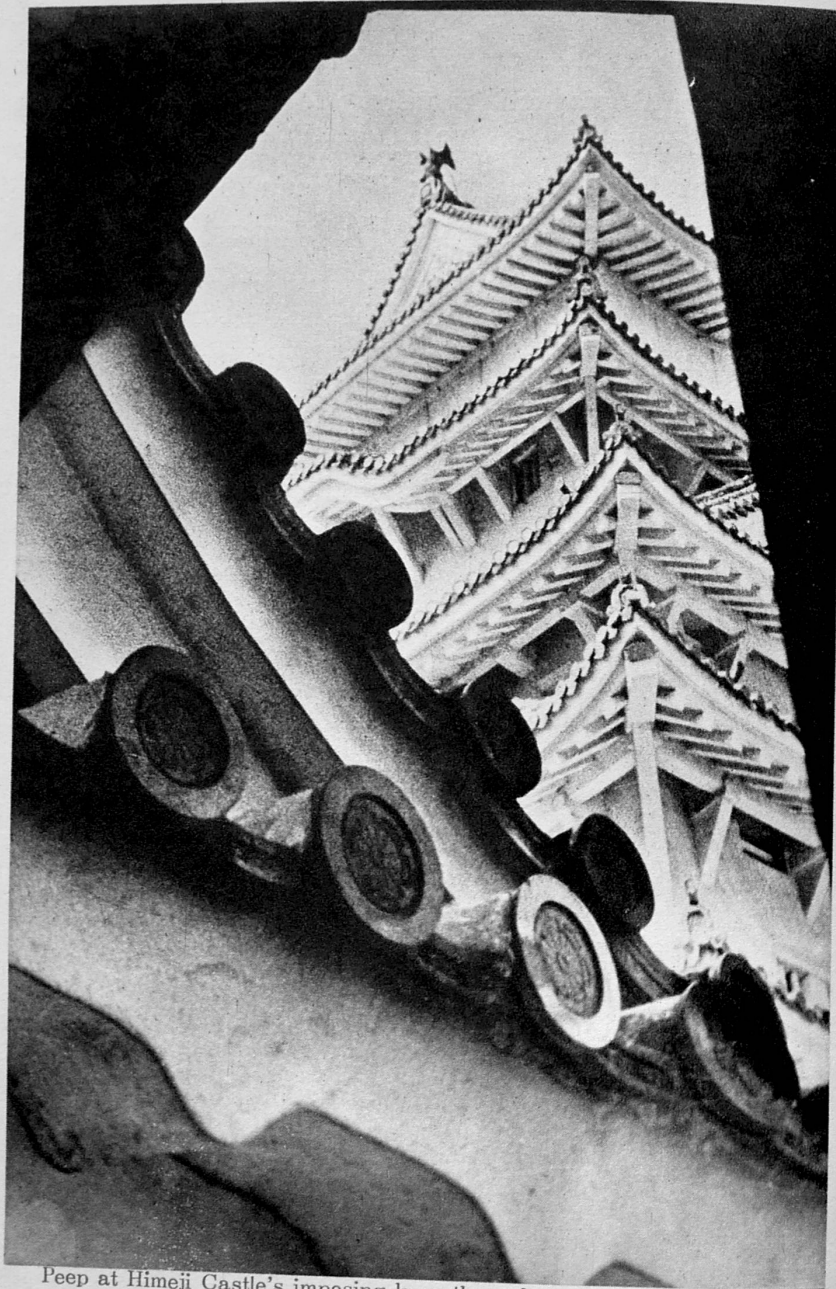
instance, by way of exterior decoration of their strongholds, of going further than displaying their family crests wrought in metal. It seems that carvings were profuse at the castle of Fushimi, of which Hideyoshi was the designer; but it seems highly questionable whether it has ever been regarded as good taste to lavish ornaments and decorations upon anything like a castle.

In conclusion, it may be said that our ancient soldiers, even when laying out their strongholds or designing the means to meet the practical requirements of war, seldom failed to bear in mind the esthetic aspects of their undertakings. There was developed a distinct conception of beauty; and this beauty developed in such circumstances by military minds, foreign to any

consideration but the exigencies of war, was conspicuous for lack of esthetic depth and flexibility. Their architectural productions were of severe simplicity but of commanding force. Free from any showiness such as might have been born of feminine minds, those castles were so made as to be expressive of fearless composure of mind, invincible fortitude, unshaken faith, —the qualities representing the noblest mind and the highest spirit of the samurai. What may be seen in the same light is the Japanese sword of olden times, as well as the Japanese warship of modern times. Their beauty is of the samurai, viz. of the inherent spirit and soul of the Japanese people.



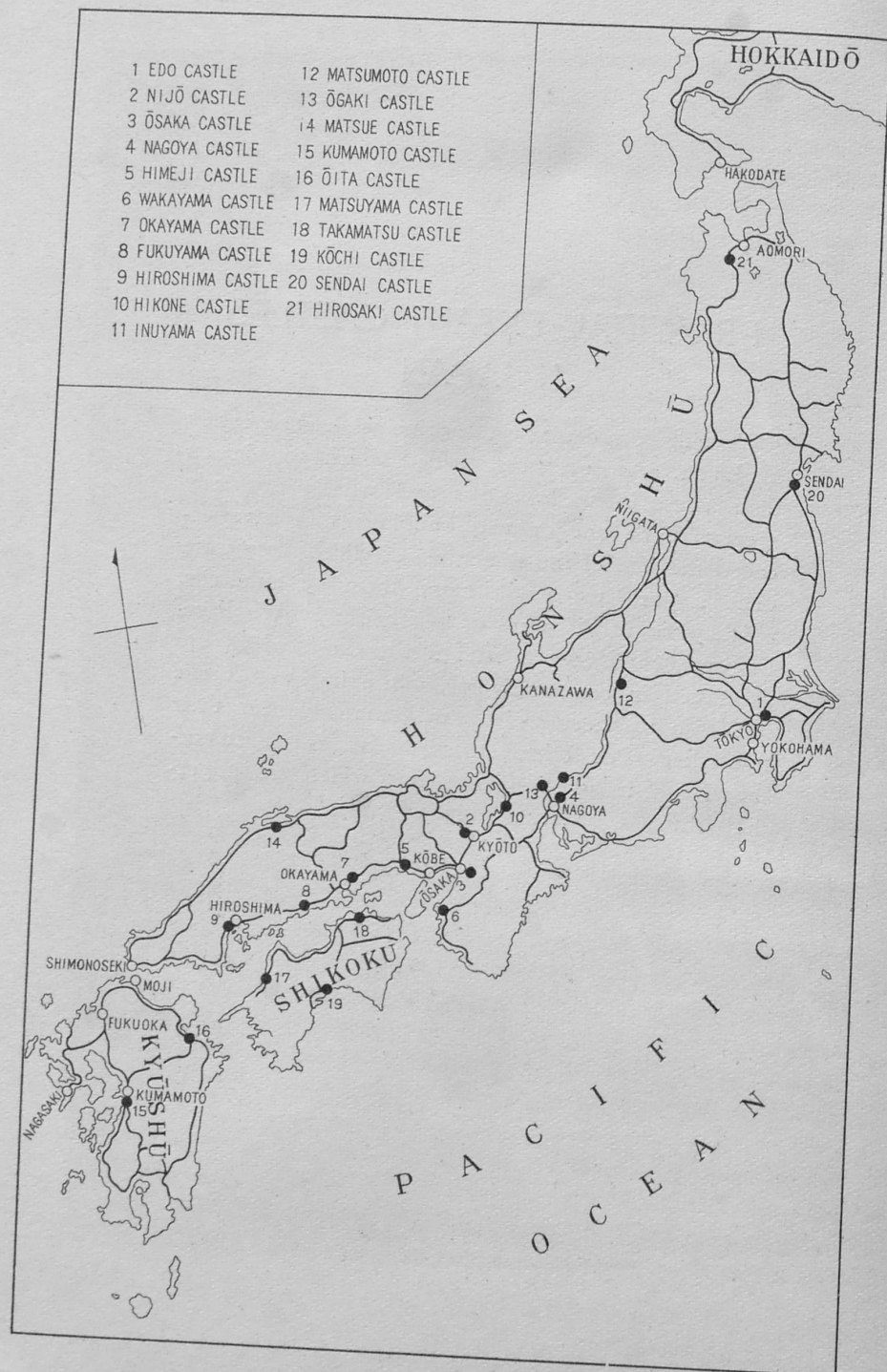
Small gate within Himeji Castle



Peep at Himeji Castle's imposing keep through typical castle eaves

PRINCIPAL EXTANT CASTLES IN JAPAN

We will now describe the principal castles extant in Japan. As for those castles which remain on their sites, in walls and moats wholly or partly preserved, or one or two buildings that have escaped the fate of the structures of which they were once a part, we might name them by hundreds, as they lie in all parts of the country. We have, however, confined our attention to those which are preserved in comparatively good, unimpaired forms, and also to those which are remarkable for their tower-keeps or other structures of major importance, and, in addition, to a few which are important from the historical point of view.



EDO CASTLE (in the City of Tokyo)

This castle stands in the centre of the city and facing Tokyo Station. The central portion of the fortifications stands upon gently-sloping ground around which was formerly provided a number of courts. There were the Main Court, Second Court, Third Court, West Court, Lower West Court, Fukiage Court, North Court, and some others. It was the greatest castle in the country, though there remain at present but few portions of the original outer walls, which have been demolished and the land absorbed by the municipality of Tokyo. The moats have been preserved for the most part. That which enables us to form the best idea of the original structures is the Nishi-maru (West Court).

This court remains today as the Imperial Palace. The Honmaru (Main Court) is taken up by the Imperial Household Department. The Sanno-maru (Third Court) is now occupied by a number of ministerial offices.

The tower-keep was destroyed by fire in 1657, and has never been rebuilt. The existing towers are "Fujimi no Yagura" or "the tower whence Mount Fuji is visible" in the Main Court, "Tatsumi no Yagura" near Sakurada-mon, and "Fushimi no Yagura" in the West Court. Of the gates there may be noted the Fukiage-mon, Ōte-mon of the West Court, Ōte-mon, Sakashita-mon, Inner Sakurada-mon, Hirakawa-mon, Sakurada-mon, etc. All these gates were ruined by the great earthquake of 1923, and there stand in their places today reinforced concrete buildings which suggest no more than the outlines of the former structures. The Ōte-mon of the West Court forms at present the front entrance to the Imperial Palace. The bridge seen between the first and second gateways is known as Nijūbashi—"Double Bridge." Outside these bridges there is the Sakurada-mon, the gateway in front of which Lord Ii, the prime minister of the Shogunate, who opened the country to foreign trade, was assassinated in 1860 by a band of anti-foreign fanatics.

Of the outer courts there remains something of the moats and earthen walls, extending from near Akasaka-mon to Ichigayamon and Ushigome-mon.

This castle was originally built in 1457 by a feudatory named Ōta Dōkan, and was taken over by Tokugawa Ieyasu in 1590.

By his order all feudal lords of the country were caused to bear their part in the work to extend the castle, successively undertaken during the period between 1593 and 1636, when the gigantic programme was at length completed. Thus it became the headquarters of the Tokugawa Shogunate and remained as such until absorbed by the Imperial Palace after the Restoration of 1868.

NIJŌ CASTLE (in the City of Kyoto)

This castle is situated a little to the west of the centre of the city of Kyoto. It is a type of "castle-on-plain." It remains as a Detached Imperial Palace. The existing castle consists of the Main and Second Courts, and both have been preserved fairly well, thereby giving us an idea of their original form and scale. The tower-keep has been destroyed by fire; there remains therefore nothing of the structures that formed the innermost court of old days. On the east side there is a gateway known as Ōte-mon. There are also gates on the north, south, and west sides. The palatial structure within the Second Court was used as the home of the Tokugawa Shōguns whenever they came up to the Imperial city. It was appointed as a Detached Imperial Palace after the Restoration. The castle is a specimen of the most magnificent architectural productions of the 17th century. The Karamon, the gate which stands at the entrance to this building, is said to have been transferred here from the Fushimi Castle built by Hideyoshi. This gate is ornamented with many elaborate carvings. When Tokugawa Ieyasu became Shōgun in 1603 he had his castle built at Nijō, emulating the late Hideyoshi's castle Juraku. The new castle became the headquarters of the Tokugawas in the Imperial city. By making arrangements through embassies and consulates, foreign visitors may be admitted into the interior of the castle.

OSAKA CASTLE (in the City of Osaka)

This castle is situated in a northeastern section of the older part of the city. It is a stronghold of "castle-on-plain" type, being built with gently rising ground as its centre. Although its outer court has been entirely demolished and absorbed by the town, the



Edo Castle (above) and Nijō Castle



Tower-keep and huge stone, "Tako-ishi" of Osaka Castle

main structures at the centre remain almost as they were in the days of its builder. The existing structures consist of a corner-tower and several gates. The present tower-keep was built in 1931, and it is a faithful copy of what the original tower was as shown in ancient drawings. The tower-keep is a ferro-concrete building of a steel frame. It is composed of five roofs externally and of seven floors internally. The stone foundation measures 45 feet in height and the tower itself is 135 feet high. The interiors form a museum of materials of local history. From the top of the tower good views may be had.

One of the conspicuous features of this castle is a number of huge stones used in its walls. A block of stone known as "Tako-ishi," and used in the frontal section of the Masu-gata, or the square ground, at the Sakura-mon, measures 26 feet high and more than 36 feet broad, corresponding to a space covered by 45 ordinary room mats. Another huge block which is seen at the west side of the "Tako-ishi," is known as "Sodefuri-ishi" and measures 15 feet high and 36 feet broad. Within the Innermost Court there is, in addition to the tower-keep, a structure known as "Kishū Goten," which was used by the Lord of Kishū until transferred here. In the Second Court there stand the Ōte-mon and eight corner-towers. The Ōte-mon, as a double gateway embracing Masu-gata is unusually large in scale, and consists of double gates and a bridge tower.

For an historical account of this castle refer to the section dealing with Hideyoshi's castle (pp. 21-25).

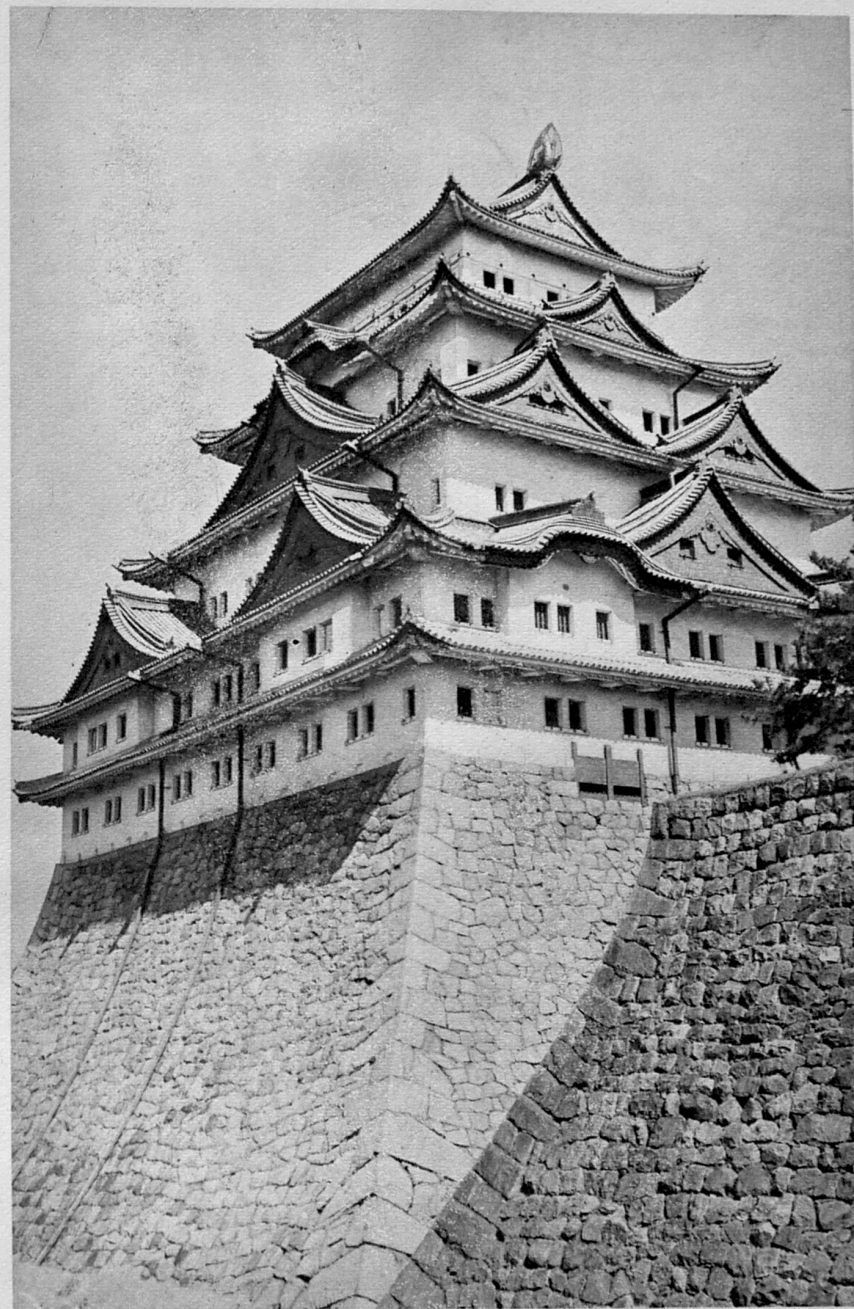
NAGOYA CASTLE (in the City of Nagoya)

This castle stands in a northern section of the city. Its central portion had, until recently, been kept as a Detached Imperial Palace. Now presented to the city of Nagoya, the castle is open to the public. The main portion was fortified by taking advantage of a projecting end of the high location on which it stands. On the north and west sides it is defended by high stone walls and encircling moats. On the south and east sides is provided a Karahori or deep waterless moat, behind which stand high earthen walls. At the entrance is formed a Masu-gata (a square area) where tower-gates stand at either passage. The whole es-

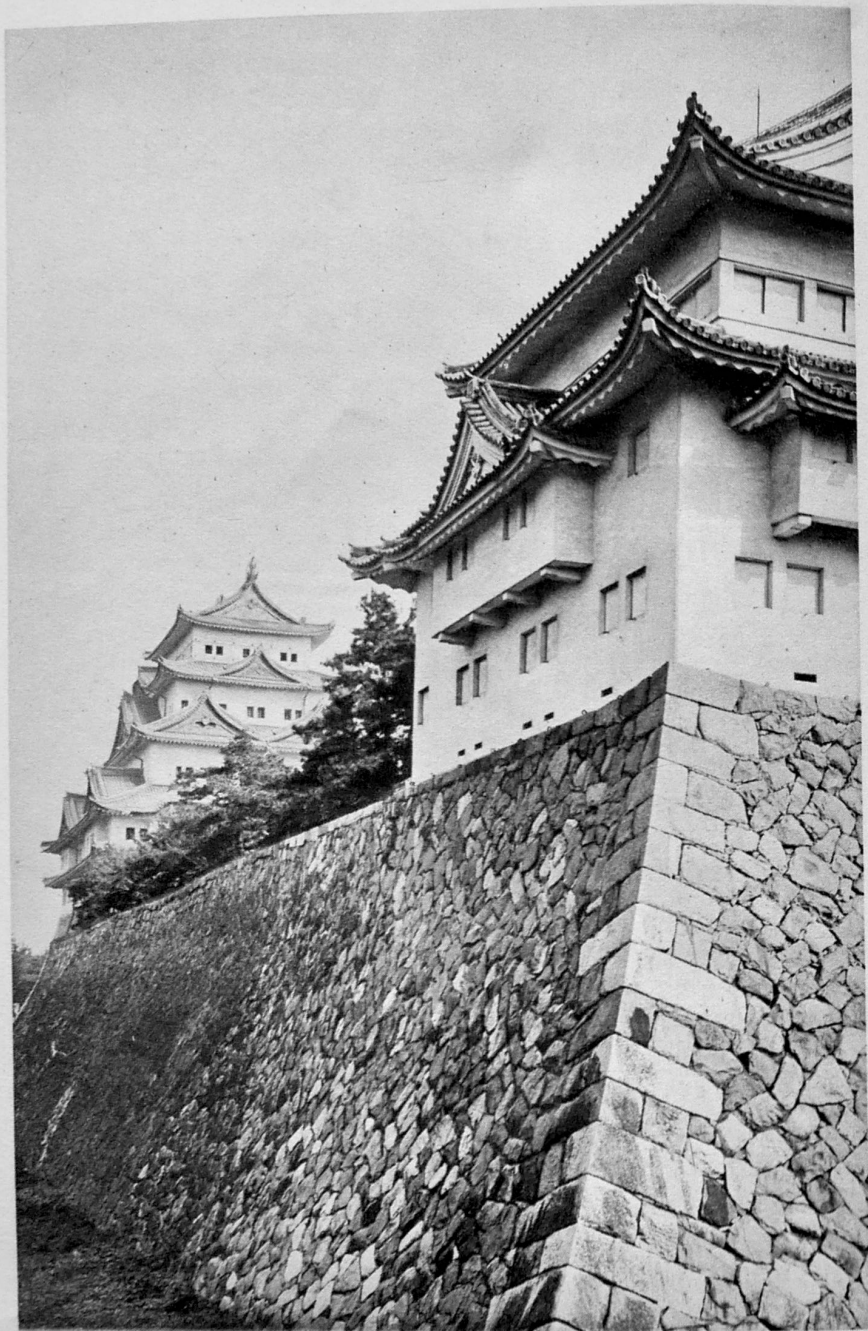
tablishment is composed of the sectional divisions of Main Court, Second Court, Third Court, West Court and Ofukai Court. The front entrance is on the east side. The present castle consists of two tower-keeps of greater and lesser standing, the buildings formerly used by the daimyōs as living quarters, and several corner-towers and gates.

The tower-keeps were planned and built under orders of the Tokugawas by Katō Kiyomasa, who was the highest authority on fortification in his days. The main tower-keep stands on a high foundation built of stone. The exterior is composed of five successive roofs but the interior is of six floors, there being an underground floor within the base. This tower is joined on its south side to a lesser keep of two floors by means of a narrow earthen bridge. The exterior walls are invariably plastered white. The roof of the first floor is shingled with tiles, and those of the upper ones are copper plated. The first floor, showing above the stone base, measures about 120 feet from north to south, and about 105 feet from east to west, the floor space being equivalent to that of more than 530 room mats. The topmost floor measures some 55 feet from north to south and approximately 40 feet from east to west, commanding good views not only of the city itself but also the distant mountain range which runs through the middle of the country, as well as the whole open plains of Gifu and Aichi prefectures. The ridge of the topmost roof is ornamented with a pair of *shachi* or dolphins, about nine feet high and entirely plated with gold. The design used on the 10-sen Japanese postage stamp represents this castle. The underground compartment was formerly used as a storehouse, there being also a well here. South of the tower-keep is seen what was in the days of the Shōguns used exclusively as their home. As a specimen of the artistic architecture of the Momoyama Period, which was in the earlier part of the 17th century, this dwelling is well known and especially the mural paintings inside. These may be seen on payment for admission. Of the lord's living quarters, which used to be in the Second Court, nothing at present remains.

For the construction in 1610 of this magnificent castle the Shōgun Ieyasu caused 22 feudal lords in the western provinces to share in the cost of the undertaking. The Shōgun's object



Nagoya Castle



Tower-keep of Nagoya Castle

was to provide for himself a political and military base in the central region of the country as a tactical move against Toyotomi Hideyori, who was still in power at Osaka, and against a number of feudatories commanding at the time somewhat formidable powers in the western provinces. When the castle was completed, Ieyasu placed it in charge of his ninth son, Yoshinao, whose descendants held it up to the Meiji Era of the 19th century. The city of Nagoya, which now has a population of a million, has grown as a town attached to this castle.

HIMEJI CASTLE, POPULARLY KNOWN AS “WHITE HERON CASTLE” (in the City of Himeji)

This castle stands north of the centre of the city. Built with a hill named Himeyama as its centre, it is a stronghold of “castle-on-plain-and-mountain” type. Because the outer walls are entirely in white, it is called Hakuro-jō, the “White Heron Castle.” The Outer Court has been merged with the contiguous part of the city. The main central portion has been perfectly preserved in its original form; and, in this respect, the castle stands quite without parallel among all strongholds in the country. There are, in addition to the tower-keep, scores of towers and gates within the compounds.

The main tower-keep is composed of one major tower-keep and three lesser keeps. These four distinct structures are connected with one another by means of a series of bridge-towers, each of which forms a small inner court by itself. The major tower-keep consists of five successive roofs externally, and of seven floors internally. The western lesser keep is of three roofs externally and of four floors internally; the eastern lesser keep of three roofs externally and four floors inside, while the northwestern keep is of three roofs outside and five floors inside. A number of windows of varied sizes and gables of diverse styles are arranged according to a well-studied plan, combining artistic effects with the means to meet practical military requirements. In this respect the tower-keep of this castle represents the most advanced type among all the existing castle of the country. In point of plan, too, this stronghold has no parallel among all the fortifications extant, as it is laid out in a very

intricate and elaborate manner. As the visitor enters at the front gate and proceeds towards the tower-keep at the innermost part, he has to turn scores of corners and pass through as many gateways, no matter which roadway he follows. Hishi-mon, the diamond gate, forming the main entrance to the Second Court, is decorative in its conception, being provided with a window of the Katō type. The West Court is surrounded with a succession of Tamon. The tower standing at the northern end of this court is known as Keshō-yagura (boudoir tower), because Princess Senhime, the consort of one of the earliest lords, is said to have used the place for retiring. Senhime, a granddaughter of Tokugawa Ieyasu, was the consort of Toyotomi Hideyori by her first marriage, and after his death became the consort of the first son of the lord of this castle by her second marriage. The Harakiri-maru, which stands below to the southeast of the main tower-keep, was used whenever a samurai committed *harakiri*. Hostages were also kept here.

This castle had been in existence towards the middle of the 14th century; but it was not until after Ikeda Terumasa became its lord in 1600, that it developed into what it is at present. The castle has since changed hands as the lords of Matsudaira, Sakakibara, Honda and Sakai by turn took it as their stronghold.

WAKAYAMA CASTLE (in the City of Wakayama)

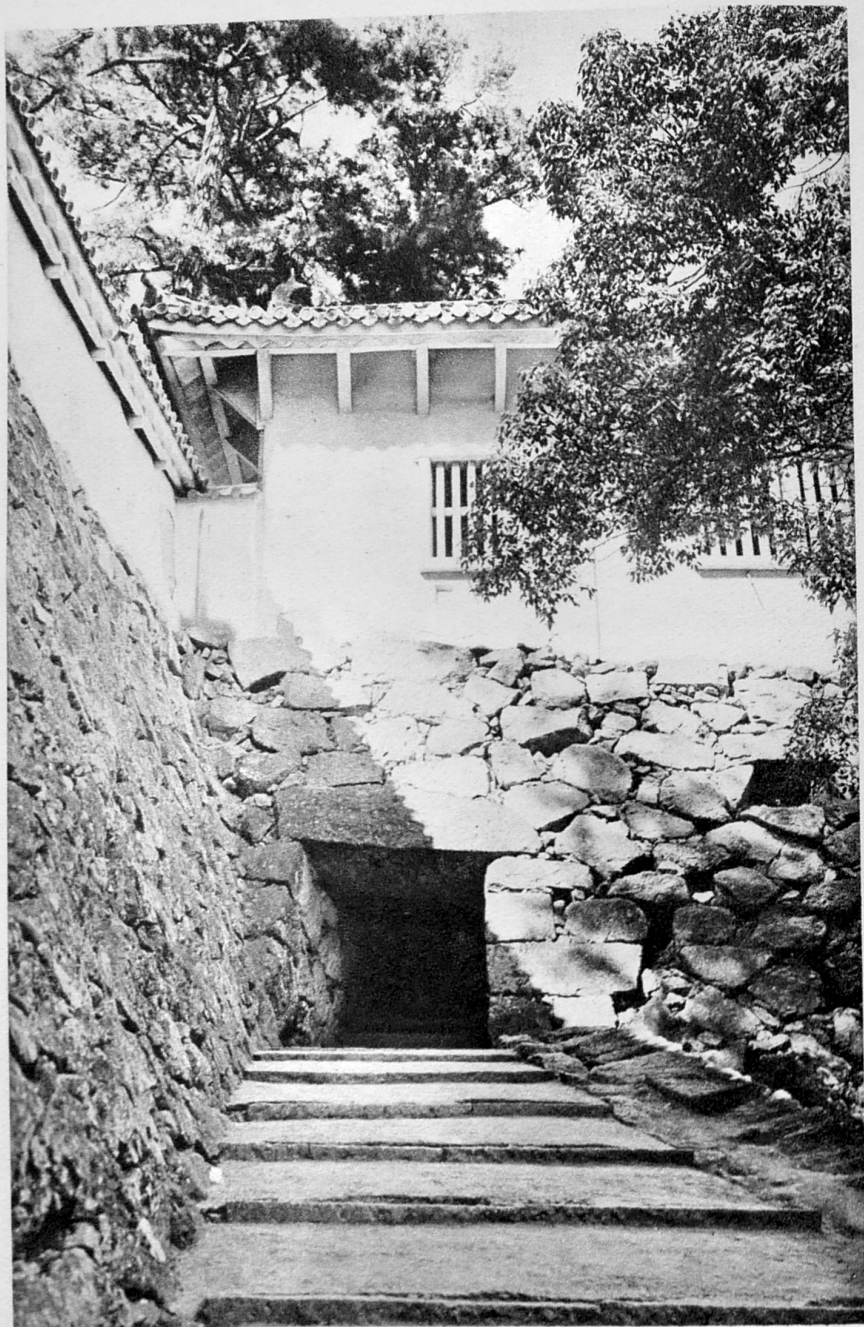
This castle occupies a central point of the city. It is built with a high location as its centre and represents a type of "castle-on-plain-and-mountain." The main portion has been converted into a public park. The walls and moats are for the most part well preserved. Among the existing castle buildings may be noted the tower-keep, corner-tower, storehouses and a few gates.

The tower-keep is of three floors. The original tower-keep was destroyed by lightning in 1845, and in its place the present tower was built five years later. Being the fortified home of one of the three great branches of the Tokugawa Family, the tower-keep is built with the costly zelkova timber.

This castle was built in 1585, when Toyotomi Hideyoshi, having subdued the province of Kii in which is situated the city of Wakayama, placed Hidenaga, one of his relatives who was a



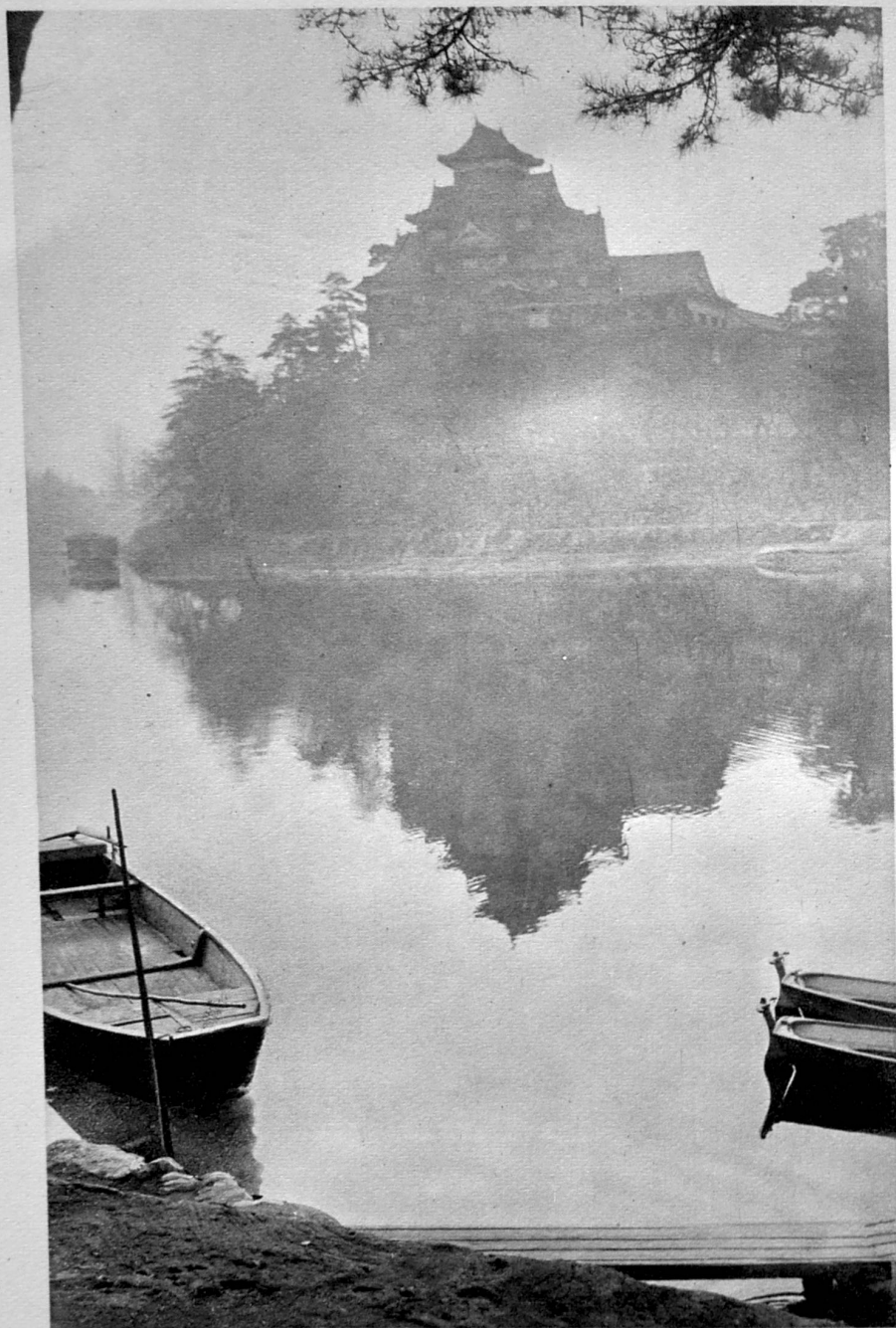
Tower-keep (above) and corner-tower of Himeji Castle



Uzumi-mon gate, whence one may descend to a hollow known as
"Harakiri-maru"



Wakayama Castle



Okayama Castle

general, in possession of this castle, which was later reconstructed on its present scale. In 1619, Yōrinobu, Ieyasu's tenth son, became lord of the castle, and his descendants remained in possession of it until the closing days of feudalism.

OKAYAMA CASTLE (in the City of Okayama)

This castle stands in an eastern part of the city. On its east side it is girded by the river Asahi, as if defended by a natural moat. Built behind this stream with a gently rising ground as its centre, it is a type of "castle-on-plain." A fair proportion of the walls and moats in their central portion are still preserved. The tower-keep, two towers and a gate also remain intact.

The tower-keep, which may be admirably seen from the famous park, "Kōraku-en," is composed of six stories built in three sectional divisions. The first floor, built on an irregular pentagonal plane, gradually changes in shape as it rises, until the two above the fourth floor assume a rectangular shape. As the exterior walls are covered with black-painted boards, the castle is popularly known as U-jō, the "Crow Castle," in contrast to the "White Heron Castle" at Himeji. This castle is artistically ornamented with gables of the Kara type and with Katō windows.

Okayama Castle was built in 1573 by Ukita Naoie, and was later held by the Lord of Kobayakawa, and next, by the Lord of Ikeda until the beginning of Meiji Era.

FUKUYAMA CASTLE (in the City of Fukuyama)

This castle stands in a northerly part of the city of Fukuyama. Built on a naturally rising ground, it is a type of "castle-on-plain." The main portion of the former fortification remains as a public park. The tower-keep and several other towers stand upon the same site. The tower-keep is of five stories, and the roofs are shingled with stone. The upper sections are provided with windows of the Katō type, whence good views may be commanded far out to sea.

This castle was built in 1619 by Lord Mizuno at the order of Tokugawa Ieyasu, for which he used what had been given him by the same Shōgun from the demolished parts of the Fushimi

Castle of Hideyoshi. The existing "Fushimi Tower" represents what remains of such materials used here. The Lord of Mizuno held it as his own stronghold until it was later replaced by the Lord of Matsudaira, and later by the Lord of Abe down to the opening of the modern era.

HIROSHIMA CASTLE, POPULARLY KNOWN AS "CARP CASTLE" (in the City of Hiroshima)

This castle stands approximately in the centre of the city. It is a kind of "castle-on-plain" and built on a grandiose scale. The main central portion has been preserved almost in perfect condition. There remain a tower-keep and a few gates. The tower-keep which stands in a northwest corner of the West Court is of five stories. The roofs are tiled. The topmost floor is provided with a balustrade.

The building of this castle was begun in 1589 by Lord Mōri Motonari and completed in 1593. When this lord was transferred to another fief, the castle was taken possession of by Lord Fukushima, and next by Lord Asano who maintained it up to the beginning of the Meiji Era. During the war with China in 1894-5, the Emperor Meiji made his headquarters within the Main Court of this castle, remaining there for seven months. The buildings made famous by His Imperial Majesty's stay are carefully preserved.

HIKONE CASTLE, ALSO KNOWN AS "KINKI CASTLE" (in the Town of Hikone)

This castle is situated in the northern part of the city, looking out over Lake Biwa on its north side. Standing upon a hill called Kinkisan, it is a sort of "castle-on-plain-and-mountain." The site upon which many of the original structures remain has been converted into a public park. Of the buildings extant there are the tower-keep, corner-towers and some bridge-towers. The tower-keep is of three floors, and is said to have been transferred here from the castle at Ōtsu. What with windows of the Katō type and other designs, the keep presents a sight of artistic effects.



Hiroshima Castle



Hikone Castle

The three-storied tower standing in the West Court, the Tosa Court at the northern end, and the Tembin-yagura or "the tower of a measuring rod," standing on the hillside, are what were originally built at Hideyoshi's castle at Nagahama, whence they were later transferred here.

The builder of this castle was Lord Ii, who by orders of the Tokugawa Shogunate had it built in 1604 with the assistance of a number of feudal lords. Standing at an important point on the artery of communication, the castle served in its days important military purposes. It remained in possession of the Lord of Ii from its erection to the Restoration (1868).

INUYAMA CASTLE, ALSO KNOWN AS "HAKUTEI CASTLE"

(in the Town of Inuyama, near Nagoya)

This castle is a type of "castle-on-plain-and-mountain." Its centre being built on Mount Inuyama standing upon the bank of the river Kiso, this castle is favoured with surroundings of extraordinary scenic beauty. It remains at present as a public park. The tower-keep, which stands at the top of the mountain, is a three-storied building of rather modest dimensions. The inside is composed of five floors. The topmost floor is equipped with balustrade on four sides and with windows of the Katō type. This keep is differentiated from other structures of the kind by its peculiarity of design. The two lower stories are crowned by a disproportionately small top floor. Built in 1440, it represents one of the primitive types of tower-keep, and is for the same reason valued for the light it throws upon the development of castle architecture.

From the tower-keep good open views may be commanded, extending far out over the open plains of Owari and Mino provinces, and looking down upon the river Kiso which is popularly called the "Japan Rhine" because of the scenic beauties it offers along its meandering course.

This castle was built by the Lord of Shiba in 1440, and later possessed successively by the Lords of Ishikawa and Naruse, the last-named holding it down to the Meiji Restoration (1868).

MATSUMOTO CASTLE, ALSO KNOWN AS "FUKASHI CASTLE" (in the City of Matsumoto)

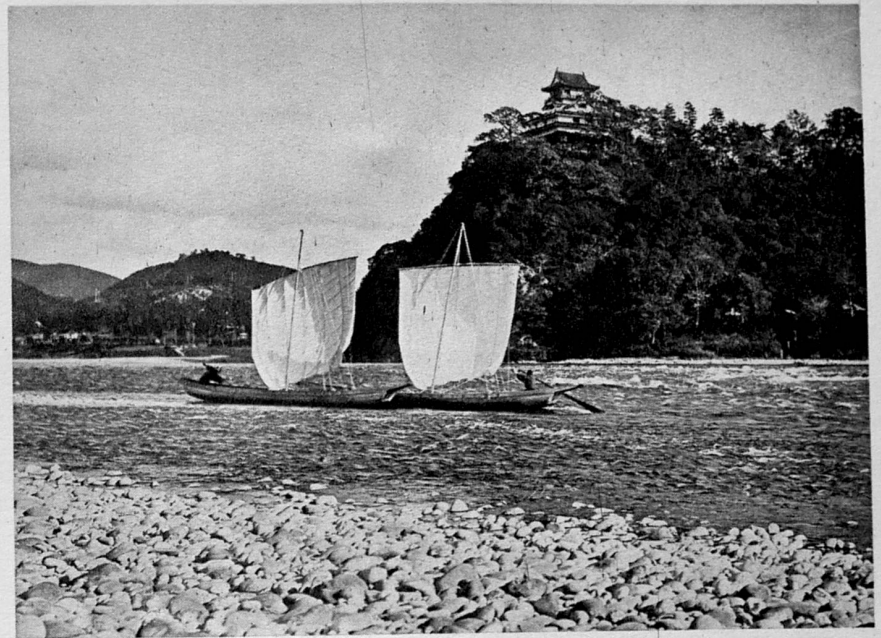
This castle is situated at about the centre of the city. It is a type of "castle-on-plain" and designed on a comparatively ambitious scale. The moats and walls are well preserved for the most part. The Main Court is at the centre, and the Second Court is seen to the south. At the western end of the Main Court stands the tower-keep which is composed of five successive tiled roofs. Closely on its north side stands a lesser tower-keep. Preserved in perfect shape, these structures give a very full and proper idea of castle architecture of ancient times. An outstanding feature of the lesser towers is that they are not provided with so many gables as are usually seen in towers of the kind, and that the outside walls in each floor have their lower portion shingled with black-painted boards. The tower-keep was added in 1594 by the Lord of Ishikawa.

This castle, built in 1504, has successively been held by the Lords of Ogasawara, Matsudaira, Hotta and Mizuno, besides the above-named Lord Ishikawa.

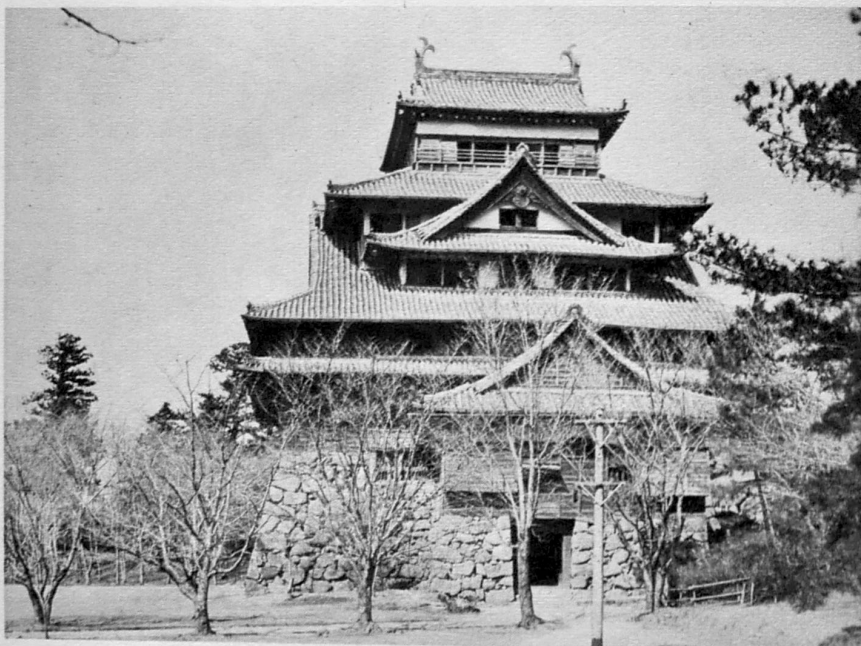
ŌGAKI CASTLE (in the City of Ōgaki)

This castle is a sort of "castle-on-plain," standing approximately at the centre of the city. The walls and moats have been preserved in but a small part. In a northeastern section of the Main Court stand a tower-keep and a corner-tower. The tower-keep is of four stories and the roofs are shingled with tiles, the walls being plastered white. What is somewhat unusual about this keep is that it consists of four stories. The number four, *shi*, being pronounced the same as the word for "death," the ancient soldiers objected to anything of four stories. The keep of this castle, designed with four successive floors, stands unique therefore among all strongholds of the country.

This tower-keep was built in 1596 by the Lord of Itō, and when, in 1600, the Tokugawa forces met the Toyotomi armies in a decisive battle at Sekigahara, Ishida Mitsunari, commanding the western armies, made his headquarters at this stronghold



Inuyama Castle (above) and Matsumoto Castle



Ōgaki Castle (above) and Matsue Castle

during the campaign. Later, the castle housed the Lord of Toda, who held it until the end of feudalism.

MATSUE CASTLE, ALSO KNOWN AS “PLOVER CASTLE” (in the City of Matsue)

This castle stands on Mount Kameta lying in a northern part of the city. It is a type of “castle-on-plain-and-mountain,” and preserved now as a public park. The walls and moats remain for the most part in good condition. Among the original buildings the tower-keep remains. It is of five stories and the roofs are tiled. The tower-keep commands good, unobstructed views, which take in the monarch peak of Daisen, as well as Lake Shinjiko reputed for its natural beauty.

This castle was built in 1611 by the Lord of Horio, and was later possessed by those of Kyōgoku and Matsudaira to the end of the feudal age. Close to the moat lying at the northern end of the fortification there is a house of native style where Lafcadio Hearn once lived. It was at one time the residence of some of the lords' retainers. As an example of the dwelling-houses which feudal lords were in the habit of building close to their strongholds to house some of their retainers, this old home is not without historical interest.

KUMAMOTO CASTLE (in the City of Kumamoto)

This is one of the “castles-on-plain-and-mountain,” built on high ground lying somewhat north of the centre of the city. The walls and moats are fairly well preserved in the central section, but the buildings were destroyed by fire or other causes about the time of the military campaign of 1877, the only exception being the third tower, known as Udo-yagura, two or three other towers and a few gates. What may be noted as a feature of the Udo-yagura is that its gables are formed not of curved lines, as is usual, but of the straight linear design, the ornaments, if anything, curving outwards, which is contrary to the usual style.

Kumamoto Castle is traced back to the beginning of the second quarter of the 16th century, but it did not assume any

shape such as might be suggested from its present scale, until its new lord, Katō Kiyomasa, had it thoroughly remodelled in 1601. As may well be expected of this lord who enjoys historic fame as a castle architect, especially for his skill in the art of building stone walls, high imposing stone walls and deep moats are the conspicuous features of this stronghold. After the house of Katō the Lord of Hosokawa held it to the end of the feudal days.

ŌITA CASTLE (in the City of Ōita)

This castle, lying in a northeastern part of the city, is a type of "castle-on-plain." The existing Main Court is at present taken up by the prefectural government offices. Although the outer courts have been merged with the city streets, remnants are still to be seen, the central portion remaining almost in perfect condition. Nothing remains of the tower-keep; but a corner-tower, tower-gates, palisades and other old equipment stand today little the worse for time. What is rather unusual is that the front gate is provided with a Katō window of uncommon design. The corner-tower, though by no means imposing in design or appearance, is interesting for its Ishiotoshi, the holes through which stones were to be dropped upon the besiegers. It may also be noted that loopholes are cut into the palisade in two rows, upper and lower.

This castle was built by Fukuhara in 1597, who was later replaced by the Lords of Hayakawa, Takenaka and Hibino. The Lord of Ōgi-Matsudaira became its owner in 1658, and his descendants held it to the end of feudalism.

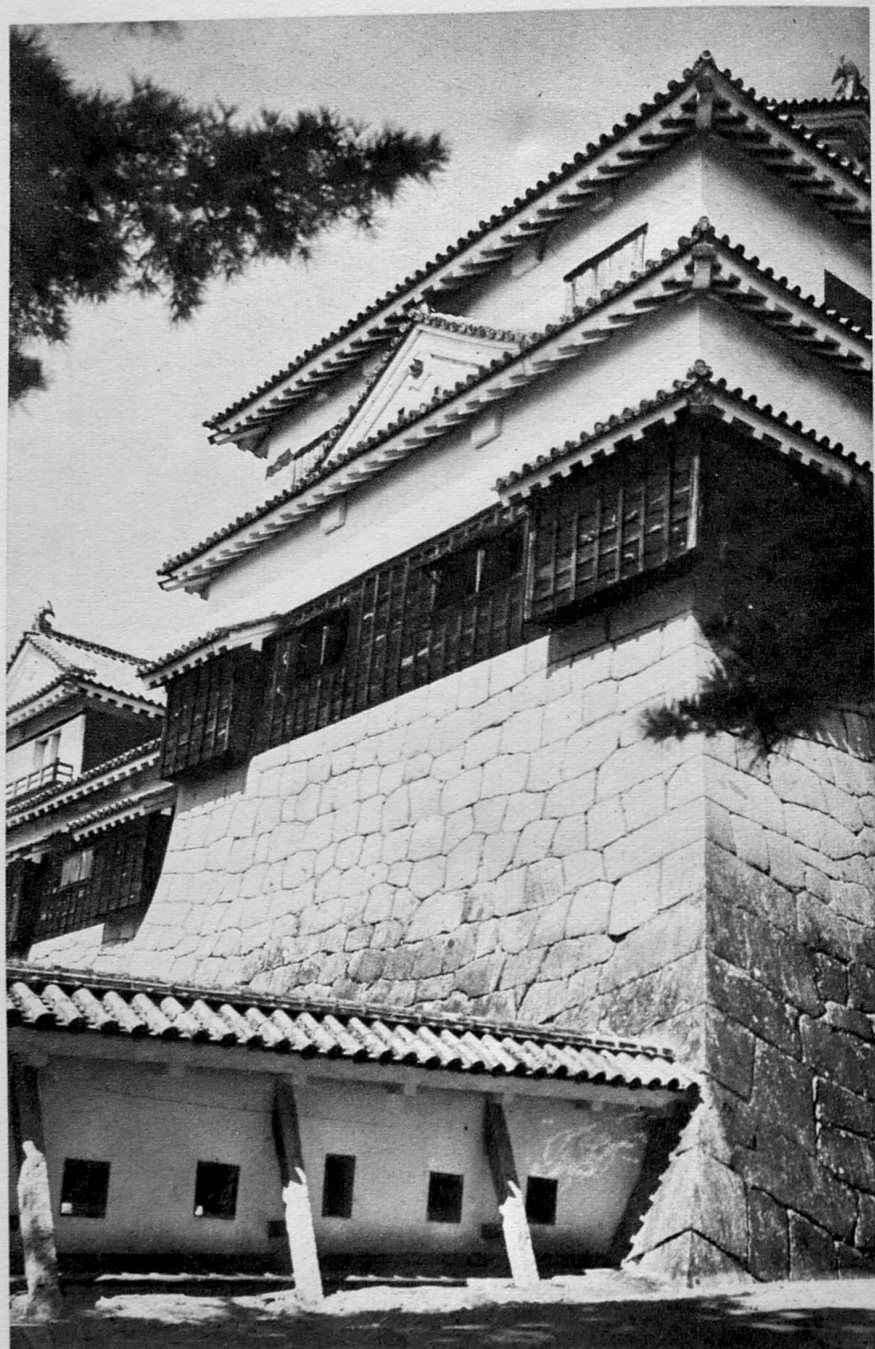
The port where Lord Ōtomo traded with the European merchants towards the close of the 15th century is situated not far from this place.

TAKAMATSU CASTLE, ALSO KNOWN AS "TAMAMO CASTLE" (in the City of Takamatsu)

This castle stands in a northern corner of the city, close to the sea, being a type of "castle-on-plain." The Inner Court, where walls and moats are well preserved, is at present marked with



Kumamoto Castle (above) and Takamatsu Castle



Matsuyama Castle

the residence of the former liege lord of the province, and also by a Shintō shrine where his ancestors are venerated.

A corner-tower and castle gates remain in existence. This castle once boasted of very good scenic and artistic appearances, its towers rearing close upon the sea. The growing city streets, however, have robbed it of what was its pride in the past.

This castle was rebuilt in 1590 by Lord Ikoma, who was later replaced by one of the houses of Matsudaira, which held it to the end of the feudal age.

In its neighbourhood lies the scenic Yashima on which stood a "castle-on-mountain" at the middle of the 7th century. Ritsurin Park, easy to reach from this point, is one of the best known parks of the country.

MATSUYAMA CASTLE, ALSO KNOWN AS "KATSUYAMA CASTLE" (in the City of Matsuyama)

Occupying about a central position of the city, this is a type of "castle-on-plain-and-mountain." It is built on and around land rising to a height of about 500 feet. The city, which has grown under modern conditions both upon and below this elevation, represents a very interesting and almost unique type of town, being distinctly divided in two sections with the castle as their centre. Except the walls and moats of the outer court, which have been absorbed into the city section, there remain some buildings of the central portion, each of these being preserved in almost complete form. Among these may be noted the tower-keep, Tamon, and several castle gates. The original tower-keep was destroyed by fire in 1854, or the year in which Commodore Perry revisited Japan. The keep was in those days joined to a lesser tower-keep and Tamon, these forming together a complete court until 1933, when the lesser tower-keep was burnt down. Good views are to be had from the keep.

This castle was originally built by Lord Katō in the early part of the 17th century, and later held in succession by the Lords of Gamō and Matsudaira down to the end of feudalism.

KŌCHI CASTLE (in the City of Kōchi)

A type of "castle-on-plain-and-mountain," occupying a somewhat central position of the city. What stands upon the hill is preserved in fairly good condition. Below the eminence stand some castle gates. Among the architectural remains are to be noted the tower-keep and a Tamon, at the east and west corridor gates, and two other gates. The tower-keep is of five stories, and the roofs, arranged in four sections, are tiled.

The towers and palisades seen in the neighbourhood are all cut down in triangular, round and square shapes of all sizes, providing loopholes for missiles. Between stone walls and the structures standing behind them there are protective fences with pointed spears directed outwards. A study of the architecture of this castle in detail will offer many points of considerable interest.

The origin of this castle is traceable to the middle part of the 14th century, but it did not begin to assume any form like its present until it passed, in 1601, into the hands of Lord Yamano-uchi, whose descendants held it down to the end of the feudal age. The present castle was rebuilt in 1748.

SENDAI CASTLE (in the City of Sendai)

This is a type of "castle-on-plain-and-mountain," standing in a southwestern part of the city. It is a type of castle in which the strategical elements of nature have successfully been incorporated into the fortifications. It is defended in front by the river Hirose, and behind by hills. From its position good and complete views may be had of the whole open plains in the middle of which the city of Sendai stands. While the walls and moats are preserved in fairly good condition, there remains nothing of the original buildings except the Ōte-mon Gate of the Second Court, a corner-tower, and the South Gate of the Third Court.

The Ōte-mon is a tower gate of residential style. The pillars and the exterior walls, instead of being plastered as is frequently done, are left in natural deal wood. In the earliest days this castle was the home of Lord Chiba, but towards the end of the 16th century, or at the beginning of the 17th, Lord Date Masa-



Kōchi Castle (above) and Hirosaki Castle

mune had his castle built here according to his own ideas, his family remaining in possession of it until the end of feudalism.

HIROSAKI CASTLE (in the City of Hirosaki)

This castle, seen in a western part of the city, is a type of "castle-on-plain." The major portion of the former fortifications have been converted into a public park.

The walls and moats of the Inner Court, Second Court and Third Court remain much the same as they were in former days. In the Inner Court stand the tower-keep, Ōte-mon Gate, Eastern Gate and Northern Gate. In the Second Court are corner-towers at the northeastern, southeastern and southwestern corners, as well as the gates East and South, standing in the quarters indicated by their names.

The tower-keep is of three stories, the roofs being tiled and the walls plastered in white. The Inner Court which occupies a raised site commands a far-extending view. What may be noted as a feature of this stronghold is that the walls and moats, contrary to the accepted general usage, are designed in straight line, deliberately avoiding bends and curves.

This castle was built in 1601 by Lord Tsugaru. His house remained in possession up to modern times.

In addition to the fortifications mentioned above, those feudal strongholds of which architectural remains are preserved in more or less proportions are as follows:

Akashi Castle, in the city of Akashi, Hyōgo Prefecture.

Maruoka Castle, in the town of Maruoka, Fukui Prefecture.

Uwajima Castle, in the city of Uwajima, Ehime Prefecture.

Kameyama Castle, in the town of Kameyama, Mie Prefecture.

Ueda Castle, in the city of Ueda, Nagano Prefecture.

Komoro Castle, in the town of Komoro, Nagano Prefecture.

Fukuyama Castle, in the town of Fukuyama, Hokkaidō.

Mito Castle, in the city of Mito, Ibaraki Prefecture.

Kanazawa Castle, in the city of Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture.

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